

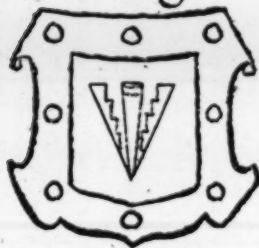
A  
TREATISE  
OF THE  
EXCELLENCY  
OF  
PRAISE  
AND  
THANKSGIVING.

By HENRY JEANES, Minister  
of Gods Word at Chedney in  
Somersetshire.

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TO THE

Right VVorshipfull  
**ROGER HILL**

late Major, the COMMON-  
COUNSELL with all other  
the wel-affected Inhabi-  
tants of the Town of

**TAVNTON.**



**W**HEN I was prevail-  
led with for the  
preaching of this  
Sermon, I was so far  
from having the  
least thoughts of  
making it publicke,

that I did not so much as suspect, or

A 3                      feare

*The Epistle Dedicatory.*

feare an invitation thereunto. And when I received intimation that it would be expected from me, I yet fully resolved to resist the utmost violence of importunity; and I had done so (although as it is said of *Elisha*, *2 Kings* 2.17. I was urged till I was ashamed) but that it was objected to me, That this my deniall was unsutable to my Sermon: for the scope of that was to quicken unto the love and practise of Thankesgiving; in the pressing of which, if I were serious & in earnest, how could I with-hold that which you desired onely as a testimony and help of your thankfulness; If thanksgiving vvere so excellent and divine a duty, vvhy vvould I not (having a Call from such as I acknowvledged godly and judicious) further it by my pen as vvell as tongue? This argument I confesse won upon me, and hath drawn from me more then a conformity to your desires; for that vvchic vvvas but a Sermon, I have enlarged into a Treatise. If God shall honour and blesse it so far as to make it instrumentall in stirring you up unto a zealous

*The Epistle Dedicatory.*

lous and sincere practise of this glorious and heavenly duty of thanksgiving, I have my end. But now if it should meet with a contrary issue, if you should be unmoved thereby, and notwithstanding it, remaine unthankfull, or else cold and remisse in your thanks, the griefe vvill bee mine, but the danger yours. For this small Tractate vvill bee one vvitnesse and aggravation of your unthankfulnesse, *Iohn 12.48*. And besides; such an entertainment of it, vvill bee very unagreeable to the argument by which you perswaded me; nay, it will argue that your obstinate earnestnesse for the publication hereof, proceeded rather from curiosity and vainglory, then from a religious desire to be quickned unto, and assisted in your praises. But to use the expression of the Apostle, *Heb. 6.9*. *I am perswaded better things of you*, and things that accompany saluation, that are answerable to such a saluation as this of yours. In confidence of, and prayer for which, I rest,

*Yours to serve you in the  
things of Christ,*

HENRIE LEANES.

*The Epistle Dedicatory.*

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HENRIE LEANES.

*Gentle Reader, I desire thee to amend with thy pen,  
these grossest escapes of the Printer: for they are such  
as spoyle the sense. As for others, I leave to thine own  
correction.*

**P**Ag. 9. line 7. for universall read unusuall. line last, blot out the second  
it. marg. for Morteni r. Mortoni. p. 11. marg. for Pala r. Rada. p. 12.  
l. 7. blot out as. p. 13. marg. for lds r. laud is. for ldare r. laudare. for defi  
r. desuir. p. 16. l. 3. blot out and. p. 22. l. 7. for ordering r. bordering. l. 8.  
9. for cognitionem r. cognationem. p. 24. marg. for ἀπολαύς r. ἀπολαύ-  
σας. p. 26. l. 29. for 87. r. 37. p. 27. l. 17. for Phil. 2. 29. r. Phil. 1. 29.  
p. 29. l. 8. for intention r. intension. p. 31. l. 2. for he r. she. l. last, for part r.  
past. p. 35. l. 29. adde Acts 20. 35. p. 38. l. 9. for peacelesse r. peerlesse. p.  
41. l. 7. for undeniable r. undeniably. p. 42. l. 32. for operation r. oppression.  
p. 43. l. 20. for ignorance r. ignorant. l. 21. for forgetfulness r. forgetfull.  
p. 44. l. 12. for many r. in any. p. 48. l. 29. for mullet r. mulis. p. 54. l. 18.  
adde of after the first love, and blot out the second love. p. 56. l. 1. for love  
r. law. p. 65. l. 8. for dispose r. dispossesse. p. 73. l. 29. for incoation r. incha-  
ation. p. 74. l. 24. for not r. our. p. 75. l. 30. for intensive r. extensive. p. 72.  
l. 4. for desire r. deterre, as also another, p. 75. l. 3. for more r. mast.

Imprimatur,  
JOHN DOWNHAM.

Decemb. 4. 1648.





## PSALM. 92. I.

It is 'a good thing to give thanks unto  
the Lord, and to sing Praises unto thy  
Name, ô most High.

*The words are soe full, and intire in themselves, as that  
wee may looke upon them absolutely, setting aside their  
Coherence with the following. And they are so plaine as  
that they need not either Analisis or Explication :  
Therefore without farther prefaceing, I shall presently  
betake myseife unto the Prooofe of that Point, which  
is the Theame of the whole verse, the excellency of  
Praise or Thanksgiving.*

Gratitude is a noble grace, Thanksgiving or Praise an excellent Duty.

**Y**OU have it elsewhere affirmed, as *Psalm*.  
54. 6. and *Psalm*. 147. 1. It is good to <sup>Eucharisia</sup> sing prayes unto our God, and Praise is <sup>q. d. a good</sup> comely. The word translated comely de-  
noteth ( as Aynsworth observeth on <sup>and amiable</sup> grace.  
*Psalm*. 33. v. 1. ) a faire and comely grace,  
for which a thing is to be liked, or desired. The Apostle  
B expresseth

expresseth the word in Greek by *ἀσκή* *Rem. 10. 15.* faire or beautifull. In *Exod. 30. 3.* The Altar of Incense was to be overlayd with pure gold, and to have a Crown of gold round about it. Which (if we may allegorically apply) intimateth untous, that the spirituall Incense of prayers and prayes is rich & pretious a golden and a royall thing. Mans tongue is his Glory, as plainly appeareth by comparison of *Psal. 16. 9.* with *Act. 2. 26.* for my glory I shall rejoyce *Psal. 16. 9.* is rendred by *Peter* in quotation of the place, my tongue was glad. Now how is the tongue the glory of man, but as it is an instrument imployed in the glorifying of God wherein stands mans highest praise and glory, Meere speech is the glory of all men above the dumbe and unreasonable creatures; eloquent speech is the glory of the learned, above the ignorant: but Gracious speech, the speech of prayer, and praise, is the glory of a David, of a Christian, above all meere naturall men.

The point may fully and clearly be evidenced, from the Titles, Subject, Object, Difficulty, Comprehensive-nesse, Causes of praise or thanksgiving, from the acceptableness thereof unto God, from an application of the severall sorts or kinds of goodnesse thereunto, from a Comparison of it with other graces and duties.

First from the synonomous Titles, or appellations of it which are very high and honourable. It is an honouring, blessing, magnifying, glorifying, and exalting, and extolling of the infinitely-blessed, great and glorious God, not by way of efficacy, for so his glorious name is exalted above all blessing and praise. *Nehem. 9. 5.* His glory greatnesse and blessednesse are infinite, and therefore incapable of either addition or diminution; but by way of Testimony, declaration and acknowledgement. It is a powring forth of the name of God as oyntment, *Cant. 1. 3.* a spreading and displaying, a setting forth of all the glories, perfections and excellencies which are in God: unto which yet thereby there can be no more reall accession, then

then there is unto the brightnesse of the Sun by reflection of its beames, from a wall or glasse.

Secondly, from the Subject of it, which in Paradise was *Adam* in his estate of innocency, in Heaven is the manhood of Christ, the glorious Angels, and the spirits of just men made perfect, in Earth the Servants and Saints of God, all those that seek and feare him, *Psal.* 22. 26. *Psal.* 113. 1, *Psal.* 135. 20. *Psal.* 145. 10. All those that are of the Fountaine of Israel, *Psal.* 68. 26. that is who are children of the Promise, borne after the spirit, like *Nathanael*, true Israelites indeed, Jews inwardly whose praise is not of men but of God. *Rom.* 2. 29. By *Adams* fall man came short of the glory of God, *Rom.* 3. 23. all his faculties were miserably out of tune so that he was utterly unable to yeeld forth the sweet musicke of thanks. But though the first instrument that God made for this, was crackt; yet God would not have this great and glorious worke to die upon the earth; but, that still there might be a people set apart for his prayse, he purchased, his church by the unvaluable blood of his sonne. *Isa.* 43. 7. Every one that is called by my name, I have created for my glory, I have formed him, yea, I have made him, *vers.* 21, This people have I formed for my selfe they shall shew forth my praise. The latter words expound the former. To be formed for Gods selfe, is to be formed for to shew forth his praise. The Church was made, formed, created for Gods glory to shew forth his praise. For this worke the Church is exalted by many unspeakable priviledges above the rest of mankinde, *1 Pet.* 2. 9. yee are a chosen generation, a royall preisthood, an holy nation, a peculiar or purchased people that you should shew forth the prayses of him, who hath called you &c. Now surely that must needs be the peculiar priviledge of the Church, which is a proper end of her being, and of all those dignities, which God hath conferred upon her.

*Rivet in Loc.*

But now ( that there may be no mistake ) we must

distinguish betwixt an Obligation unto, and an Acceptable performance of the duty. The Obligation lies upon all: because, first, the Command is generall, and exempts none. *Psal.* 150. 6. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Secondly, Gods mercy is universall, and reacheth unto all. *Psal.* 145. 9. But now if we speak of a due and acceptable Performance of the duty, Praise, as the Psalmist sayth, waiteth for God in Sion. *Psal.* 65. 1. which words may be expounded by those of *Paul*, *Eph.* 3. 21. unto him be glory in the Church. Gratitude is a grace seated in, and Thanksgiving a duty performable by onely the true and genuine members of the Church mystical, the body and fulnesse of Christ. *Eph.* 1. 23. and this appropriation of the duty unto the Church might be signified by the very Name that was given unto that tribe, which was in an especiall manner a type of the Church, It was called Judah that is, Praise. However then all men are obliged unto the duty by the generallity of Gods both command and mercy, yet they onely who are truly Church members and so members of Christ are enabled for and accepted in performance of the duty.

First they onely are enabled and gifted for the duty, they onely have the gift and grace of thankfulness, their hearts alone are set in a right tune by God, and soe none but they can make this musick. All others are out of Christ, and without him, severed from him, we can doe nothing saith our Saviour. *Joh.* 15. 5. in this or any other duty. Least any saith *Austin* by occasion of those foregoing words in the same verse, He that abideth in mee, and I in him, bringeth forth much fruit, might conjecture that the branch which did not abide in Christ might bring forth of it selfe, some, though but a little fruit; Christ doth not say without mee yee can doe but a little or a small matter, or without mee if yee doe any thing it will be with a great deale of difficulty: but without mee yee can doe nothing at all. A spirituall knowledge

*Tract. in Ioan.*  
81.  
*De Verbis Apost.*  
*post. Serm.* 13.



ledge of God and his mercy is as you shall here anon a  
 roote of Thanksgiving. The unregenerate then cannot  
 but bee unable for it who have their understandings dark-  
 ned. *Ephe. 4. 18.* Now as Doctor *Feild* notes out of  
 the booke called *Destructorium Vitiarum*, though a man  
 may know in the darke the length, breadth and other di-  
 mensions of a thing; but not whether it be faire, or  
 foule, white, or black: so however wicked men in that  
 dark condition, and obscurity of discerning into which  
 sin throwes them, may finde out that there is a God, and  
 that hee is the beginning, and cause of all things, yet they  
 cannot know how faire, how good, how mercifull, and  
 how glorious hee is, that so they may love him &c. praise,  
 and thanke him, unlesse they have an illumination of grace.  
 To propound Gods glory as the highest end is required  
 in all true thanksgiving, and therefore unregenerate men,  
 have no ability for the worke, because their hearts are  
 utterly voyd of that, which is the originall of such a pro-  
 posall, that love of God, which the Schoolemen call a love of  
 freindship, whereby God is loved for himselfe, for that  
 absolute goodnesse which he hath in himselfe. The highest  
 kind of love that they can reach unto is a Love of Con-  
 cupiscence whereby they desire to make use of God to  
 serve their owne turnes. Their love of God is but a  
 circular love that begins and ends in themselves, in their  
 owne commodity and benefit. Reall and sincere thank-  
 fulnesse calls for the soule, the tongue and the life. And  
 neither soules, tongues, nor lives of the unregenerate  
 can beare a part in this duty. Not their soules, seeing e-  
 very imagination of the thoughts of their hearts (the He-  
 brew word *ו'ו'* signifieth not onely imaginations but  
 also the purposes and desires) are onely evill continually.  
*Gen. 6. 5.* not secondly their tongues *Mat. 12. 34.* O  
 Generation of Vipers how can yee being evill speake  
 good things. Not their lives, A corrupt tree cannot bring  
 forth good fruit. *Mat. 7. 18.*

*Feild of the  
 church. p. 254.*

Tunius  
Willet  
on Levit.

Secondly, as the Saints onely have gifts and abilities for the duty, so they alone finde acceptation in it. To give thanks sayth *Paul*, is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 *Thessa.* 5. 18. that is as *Zanchy* expoundeth the words. Towards you who are in Christ Jesus from such onely tis the acceptable will of God, that is by a Metonymy, an Object which will please and delight his will. In Peace offerings the sacrifices were to be eaten, as, pure. *Levit.* 7. 15. so *Pura a Puris*, both the sacrifices, and the sacrificers were to be free from any legall or ceremoniall uncleannesse, or pollution, *vers.* 19. 20, 21. To teach, That as the expressions of thankfulness, so the persons of the thankfull were to be holy. If he that did eate of the flesh of the Peace-offerings were Levitically uncleane, he was to be cut off: Thereby intimating the unacceptableness of our thanksgivings if tendered by one morally uncleane; whose uncleannes is unmortified, who indulgeth himselfe in the love, and practise of his lusts, and corruptions. *Amos* 5. 22, 23. Every such a man is a child of wrath, *Ephe.* 2. 3. an object of Gods vindicative wrath, a wrath of malediction and if his Person be hated and accursed by God, how can his prayes be accepted with god? Hee is a corrupt tree and therefore all his thanks are corrupt, rotten and stinking in the nostrils of God. Hee is in the flesh and in an estate of infidellity; now they that are in the flesh cannot please God, *Rom.* 8. 8, without faith tis impossible to please him. *Heb.* 11. 6. All his sacrifices, his sacrifices of praise; all his prayers, his prayers of thanksgiving, as well as petition are an abomination unto the Lord. *Prov.* 15. 8, and 28. 9. Hee will spread the dung of them upon his face. *Mal.* 2. 3. He wil regard them no more, then the cutting off a Doggs neck, then the offering of Swines blood, then the blessing of an Idoll, *Isa.* 66. 3. The Apostle in *Heb.* 6. 1, termes all workes that goe before repentance, and conversion, Dead workes: because they proceede from a dead

Dickson &  
new Annotat.

dead principle, from a nature dead in sins, and trespasses; because they make liable to death, they deserve death. Now to argue from the generall to the particular, it followeth therefore; that the prayſes, and thanks of unregenerate men, which goe before their repentance, and conversion, are but a dead worke, onely the carkeſe, and forme of praise and thanksgiving, as comeing from dead hearts, and affections and being ſo farre from finding favour, and acceptance with God, as that the wages of them is death. Although then they bee very forward, and ſeemingly zealous in their prayſes and thanks, though they be very elaborate, and make great flouriſhes in their celebrations of God mercies: yet, to use the ſimilitude of *Chryſoſtome* applied by him to the workes of the wicked in generall. All this is but like the Reliques of the dead wrapt up fairely. Wee ourſelves reckon it no credit but a diſgrace rather, to be praised by baſe and unworthy men. *Paul* was greived with the prayſes that the damſell poſſeſſed with the Spirit of divination gave him and *Silas*. *Act.* 16. 16, 17, 18.. And will God then; thinke you, bee well pleaſed with thoſe prayers that come from impure, mouths, and unſanctified hearts? or will he not rather account them diſprayſes? a ſtaine, and a blemiſh unto his glory? when the ſpirit of an uncleane Devill uttered the glorious praise of Chriſt Proclaiming him with a loud voice to be the holy one of God, Chriſt rebuked him, and commanded him to hold his peace. *Luk.* 4. 33, 34, 35. In like manner, though not in ſo high a degree, he deeply diſtaſteth and diſreliſheth all prayſes, and thanks which come from thoſe that are of the Devill. *1 Joh.* 3. 8. children, limbes of the Devill. *Act.* 13. 10. who commit ſinne make a trade of ſinning, obey ſinne in the luſts thereof. For their moſt glorious prayſes are ſo farre from exaltation of Gods moſt holy Name, as that they are a prophanation and pollution thereof.

Thirdly, In a third place. The excellency of the duty  
may

may be gathered from the excellency of its object, and that in the text is the name of God. It is a good thing to sing prayſes unto thy Name. Now the name of God is great, terrible, and holy. *Pſal.* 99- 3. glorious. *1 Chro.* 29. 13. Exalted above all bleſſing and prayſe. *Nehem.* 9. 5. Excellent above the Earth and heaven. *Pſal.* 8. 1. *Pſal.* 148. 13. But to ſpeake diſtinctly Gods mercies, and benefits, are the object of thanksgiving, his excellencies, and perfections of prayſe. So then thanksgiving looks upon that which is moſt amiable, ſweet, and lovely in Gods attributes, and workes, his tender mercies that are over all his workes. *Pſal.* 145. 9. that are as great as the heaven is high above the earth. *Pſal.* 130. 11. And that which reſpects ſo ſweet an object cannot poſſibly be unlovely. Praise regards what is moſt admirable in Gods nature, and workes, his divine excellencies, and perfections *Pſal.* 107. 8. *Pſal.* 145: 5 6. And in reference unto this is it that God is ſaid to be fearful in prayſes doing wonders. *Exod.* 15. 11. *River* upon the place thinks that prayſes may be taken metonymically for the matter of prayſes, thoſe workes of God for which he is to be prayſed, and then the ſenſe is; Thoſe workes of thine for which thou art to be prayſed are fearefull, terrible, and wonderfull. The latter words doing wonders, expaine the former, Fearefull in prayſes. God is therefore fearefull in prayſes: becauſe he doth wonders. Regard is had unto that great, and dreadfull execution of judgement upon the Egyptians in the foregoing chapters. But the expreſſion upon good ground is applyable unto all the marvellous workes of God. Now that which reſpects ſo glorious an object, cannot poſſibly be inglorious, that cannot but be an admirable duty which is wholly taken up with thoſe workes of God, that deſerve dread and wonder.

\* Καὶ τὸ χα-  
λεπώτερον  
ἀρετῶτερον  
ἐστὶ. Μᾶλλον  
γὰρ αγαπῶ-  
μεν ἔχοντες  
εἰ μὴ ἐστὶ ραδι-  
ως λαβεῖν. Α-  
ποστ. 3. Τορ. 2. c.  
ext. 14.

Fourthly, \* difficulty is an argument of excellency and how difficult the duty is may be collected from that in-  
terrogation



interrogation of the Psalmist. *Psal.* 106. 2. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? who can shew forth all his praises? which may be resolved either into a Negation or Restriction. Few or none can utter the mighty acts of the Lord, can shew forth all his praise; few can doe it in an acceptable manner, and none can doe it in a perfect manner. \* And indeed it is not un<sup>u</sup>niversall in Scripture for such kind of Interrogations to amount unto either a negation or at least an expression of the rarenesse and difficulty of the thing spoken of. *1 Cor.* 2. 16. *Psal.* 90. 11. *1/a.* 53. 1. Without a full confession of mercies it is not possible to make either a due valuation of them, or a just requitall for them. And how impossible a thing it is, fully to recount mercies you may see *Psal.* 40. 5 Many, o Lord, are thy wonderfull workes which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us ward, they cannot bee reckoned up in order unto thee: If I could declare and speake of them they are more then can be numbred.

But the difficulty of the duty, may yet farther bee proved from the fifth prooffe of its excellency, the Comprehensiveness of it. It is a very wide and comprehensive duty whether wee regard its Elicite or Imperate acts: Its Elicite acts, those which immediately flow from the grace or virtue of thanksgiving, viz. Observation, Confession, Remembrance, Valuation, Retribution, are things of a very large extent that take up the whole heart. *Psal.* 9. 1. *Psal.* 138. 1 Nay the whole man, all his parts and all his powers. But its Imperate acts, those which are performed by its command, and more remote influence comprehend the whole compasse of obedience all workes of Religion concerning God, of charity and Justice towards both, our brethren, and our selves. \* Peace-offerings were never offered alone but alwayes joyned with other sacrifices. *Judg.* 20. 26. and 21. 4., *1 Chron.* 21. 26. Thereby shewing that thanksgiving if it goe not to the constitution of, it hath yet a necessary

\* Reynolds  
on Hosea.

2 *n* *u* *s* *a* *l* *l*

\* Vid. *Mortoni*  
*Amidot. contra*  
*Merita.* 19. c.  
*sect.* 4.

\* *Willer*,  
*Iunius.*

connexion with and relation unto all our spirituall sacrifices, all our duties. *Austine* makes the whole duty of man to stand in this, *Ut anima non sit ingrata deo*, that the soule bee not unthankfull to God. *Ursinus* gives his third book of the Body of Divinity the title of Gratitude which yet treats concerning conversion, good workes, the law of God, prayer &c. Hee thought it seemes that gratitude comprehended all these. The title of the booke of Psalmes is in the Originall *שִׁיר מִזְמוֹרֹת* the book of praises and yet it compriseth all subjects belonging to Divinity. No point of Doctrine almost but is handled, no duty but is pressed therein. The whole Body of Divinity belongs to the praise of God. What is there Speculative therein, but sets forth some matter or argument of praise. What is there Practicall therein but is an expression, and fruit of the prayse of God. Even *Seneca* tells us, that the matter of this virtue is as broad as our lives. There is lieth difference betwixt the prayeing, and glorifying of God, and glorification of God comprehends in generall, Fruification, or obedience. *Joh. 15. 8.* Herein is my Father glorified that yee beare much fruit, *Phil. 1. 11.* The fruites of righteousness are by Jesus Christ unto the praise and glory of God. More particularly. Confession of sinne. *Josh. 7. 19.* My sonne give glory to the Lord God of Israel and make confession unto him. Repentance; *Rev. 18. 9.* They repented not to give God glory. Faith. *Rom. 4. 20.* He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelife: but was strong in faith giving glory to God. Martyrdome. *John 21. 19.* Signifying by what death he should glorifie God. The Apostle having exhorted to give thanks in every thing 1 *Thes. 5. 18.* backs it with this motive, For this is the will of God &c. which (why may wee not interpret thus) This is the summe or abridgment of Gods revealed will.

Sixthly, The excellency of thanksgiving may be inferred from the worth of its Causes. I shall instance but in

\* Hujus virtu-  
tis materia tam  
late patet quam  
Vita. de Benef.  
l. 4. c. 19.

in live. Faith in, and Love of God, spirituall, both Know ledge of, and Joy in God, and his mercies, Humbleness, Meekness of mind, or Brokenness of heart. These excellent and pretious graces doe produce thanksgiving, and therefore cannot but derive unto it somewhat of their perfection and excellency.

First then, Faith is a cause of thankfulness. *Psalm. 106.*  
 12. Then beleaved they his word, they sang his praise, Their singing of his praise was an effect of beleife of his word. The Psalmist hath regard, as appears plainly by the coherence unto *Exod. 14. 31.* and *15. 1.* When Israel saw that great worke which the Lord did upon the Egyptians, and beleaved the Lord &c. Then sang *Moses* and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord. First Faith unites with God and Christ, and a soul that is one with God and Christ, apprehends it selfe interested in their honour, and glory: the advancement of which, it answerably desireth and indeavoureth. Secondly, Faith is a self-denying grace, it carrieth a man out of himselfe unto God and Christ, and therefore carrieth away all honour, and glory from a mans selfe unto God, and Christ. Now faith hath by *Peter* the Epithite of Pretious, expressly given unto it. *2 Pet. 1. 1.* And pretious it is in regard of its object Christ, his pretious truths and promises; In regard of its effects or offices. For it unites with God, and Christ. Justifieth our persons before God, Purifyeth our hearts, worke.h by love, that is, it is a meanes of the increase and exercise of Love, and all other practicall graces; it stirreth them unto, and forwards them in their operations, and is therefore called the Root the Queene, the Emperesse of all other graces.

Secondly, A second cause of thankfulness is Love of God. The Schoole-men distinguish of a twofold love one of Freindship, another of Concupiscence according to both \* *Aquinas*, and \* *Scotus*. A Love of freindship regards the object unto which wee wish or desire good

\* *Aquin. 1. 2*

2. 2. *Quest. 261*

art 4.

*Scot. 1. 2. d. 6.*

q. 2. n. 3.

*Faber Favens. pada.*

\* 2 d. 1. 2 d. 2.  
q. 23. art. 1.

\* Faber Fa-  
venti. l. 2. d. 6.  
q. 2. d. 3. 2.

\* Amor concu-  
piscencie dici-  
tur inclinatio  
appetitus in bo-  
num, non secun-  
dum se, ut in  
terminum, sed  
ut relatum ad  
alterum vel ut  
alteri applican-  
dum seu appli-  
cationem. Tom. 2.  
dist. 3. q. 2.  
punct. 1.

\* Aquin. 2.  
2<sup>a</sup>. q. 33.  
art. 1.

A Love of concupiscence respects the good which wee wish, or desire unto the Object loved with the love of freindship: and \* thus, to use the instances of *Aquinas*. Wee love Wine, an Horse, or any thing else, by which we our selves, or any other thing we love with the love of freindship may be advantaged, or delighted. Now it is as impossible that the love of God which is but of concupiscence should produce thankfulness. For, first, \* that is a love of a thing *propter aliud*, and in *ordine ad aliud* for something else in order, or in *subordination* unto some other thing. Now, that which goes about to make God any way *subordinate* is so farre, from working his praise, as that it is an attempt to un-God him, to rob him of that honour, and glory which is essentiall to him. Secondly, true thanks, and prayes are terminated in God, now, as \* *Gregory de Valentia* observeth, the love of concupiscence is not terminated in the goodnesse of its object, but referred farther unto an application thereof, unto the object loved with the love of freindship, \* our love of Wine and horse staves not in the goodnesse of Wine, or horse, but respects the use thereof by our selves or freinds. We wish our Wine, our Horse good; but tis, in reference to our selves, or our freinds that we or they may have the use, service, or benefit of this their goodnesse. That love of God then which is but of concupiscence is terminated not in God, but in our selves, in that advantage which we desire to reape by, in that use which we desire to make of him. This love then is more desirous, and studious of our owne good, then Gods glory, and therefore cannot beget thankfulness, which principally minds the exaltation of Gods glory. But now the very height of praise, & thanksgiving is an effect of that love of God which is called a love of freindship: for that is a love of God principally for his owne sake, and therefore subjects unto his glory whatsoever is finite, and created. This love makes God *subordinate* unto nothing.



thing, and an acknowledgment of the *unsubordinatenesse* of God, is the greatest glory that a poore creature can give him. This love of freindship, as *Aquinas* observeth out of *Aristotle*, is a love of Benevolence, whereby we wish, or desire good unto the object loved. Hee then that loves God with the love of freindship, loves him with a love of Benevolence, and to love God with a love of Benevolence is to wish, and desire all possible good unto him. Now our goodnesse, sayth the Psalmest, extendeth not unto him *Psal. 16. 2. viz.* otherwise then by way of praise, declaration, glory and acknowledgement. The love of God then that is of benevolence enclineth to desire, and endeavour the bringing of all possible praise, honour, and glory unto him The Apostle speaking of this love, sayth that it seekes not her owne. *1 Cor. 13. 5.* that is principally. If then we love God with this kind of love, we will not seeke our owne, we will more zealously, and diligently seeke the advancement of Gods glory, then the profit, pleasure, honour, credit, and reputation of our selves. \* If we love God with all our hearts, with all our soules, with all our mights, we will set a higher value upon his glory, and praise, then upon the whole creation And therefore rather then his glory, and praise should run any hazard, will resolve to undergoe the utmost extremities. Love of God you see is a cause of praise, and thanksgiving; and for proove of its excellency, I shall in this last refer you unto *1 Cor. 13.* which chapter is wholly spent in the elogies, and commendations thereof.

\* *Amas et l.  
das definit l.  
dare si, desin  
amare. Aufi  
Psal. 85.*

Thirdly, A third cause of thankfulness is a spirituall, and experimentall knowledge of God, and his workes of mercy, and deliverance A thankfull man must praise God for them, and therefore he must be acquainted with them. He must distinctly, and lively blazon out the specialties of them, and therefore hee cannot bee ignorant of them *David* was sensible that hee could neither have a



\* Psa. 68. v.  
24. 26. com-  
pared.

thankfull heart, nor thankfull lipps without knowledge not a thankfull heart. *Psal. 119. 7.* I wil praise thee with uprightnesse of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgements: not thankfull lipps *Psal. 119. 171.* my lipps shall utter praise when thou hast taught me thy statutes. \* An open mouth to praise God for benefits presupposeth ever as its cause an open eye, an enlightened understanding to behold the name of God written upon it, as a token of his love. Now knowledge is a very precious grace, that wonderfully beautifyeth, and enricheth the mind of man, and therefore compared by *Solomon* to silver, and hid treasure. *Prov. 2 4.*

Fourthly, A Fourth cause of praise and thanksgiving is spirituall Joy that commeth cheifly from a sight, and sence or relishing of Gods love, and goodnesse in mercies. This will be evident, if you will compare my text with the 4 verse of the Psalm; for then you shall see that the Psalmist there setteth downe the ground, or reason why hee thought giving of thanks, singing of praise so good, and excellent a thing. For thou Lord hast made me glad through thy work. v. 4. viz. of mercy, and deliverance. A joycing of the heart by Gods workes of mercy begets a solid, and serious apprehension of the goodnes and excellency of praise and thanksgivings and such an apprehension will quicken unto a chearfull performance of it. And indeed it is impossible, but that praise, and thanks should be the effect of spirituall joy in mercies. How can a man bee unthankfull for mercies, which witnesse and scale up Gods speciall love, and favour, and so produce glorious and unspeakable comfort? A man truly and spiritually joyfull is satisfied with the love of God shed abroad through his heart, as with marrow, and fatnesse &c. And how can such an one, but be excited unto thankfulness? *Psal. 63. 5.* My soule with the Psalmist shall be satisfied as with marrow, and fatnesse, and then my mouth shall prayse thee with joyfull lipps. \* Now the excellency of joy

\* In the ring  
of graces,  
Faith is the  
diamond. Joy  
the sparkle of  
the diamond.  
*Arrowsmith,*  
on 1 Sam. 7.  
12.

joy is set forth *Psal.* 97. 11. Light is sowne for the righteous, and Joy for the upright in heart. The latter part of the words expound the former, and shew that by the Light sowne for the righteous, is meant Joy. And indeed tis usuall in Scripture for light to be put for joy, *Hest.* 8. 16. *Isai.* 50. 10 Now light is of all sensible qualities the brightest, and most glorious.

Lastly, Humbleness, Meekness of mind, Brokenness of heart is a cause of thankfulness. An humble, contrite and penitent soule, will debase it selfe, lay it selfe low before God, it will disclaime all desert of the meanest mercies. And that's the way to value mercies to exalt, and extoll God aright: such a soule will challenge to it selfe nothing but sinne, and impotency; and therefore it will not dare to finger any part of the glory, honour, and praise which is due unto God. Now for the excellency of this humility, meekness, and brokenness of heart, I shall alleadge but these few following places of Scripture. *Psal.* 51. 17. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. The Psalmist, alludes (thinks some) unto spices which are most fragrant when pounded, and bruised; so are our hearts most pleasing to God when broken with spirituall sorrow. For in the latter part of the verse a contrite, and broken heart thou wilt not despise, there is a *μίσω* or *Liptotes*. lesse is said, and more understood. So that the meaning is, A broken and contrite heart thou wilt highly value, and prize, and so much may be gathered, for that it is called not onely the sacrifice of God in the singular number, but the sacrifices of God in the plurall, to denote that it was in steede of all Leviticall, or ceremoniall sacrifices, mentioned in the foregoing verse, more acceptable unto God then all of them. *Isai.* 57. 15. Thus sayeth the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy, I dwell in the high, and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite, and humble spirit, to revive the

the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. *Isai. 66. 2.* To this man will I look that is of a poore contrite spirit, and not with a bare Intuitive looke, but with a loke of Love, and Respect. If you compare the words with the foregoing verse, and heed the Antithesis hinted by the Particle, But, it will be obvious to infer, that a poore and contrite spirit is Gods place of rest, his temple, and sanctuary. A meek spirit is termed by *Peter* an Ornament of great price in the sight of God. *1. Pet. 3. 4.*

The worth of prayse, and thanksgiving may severally be concluded from the acceptablenesse thereof to God. To praise the name of God with a song, to magnifie him with thanksgiving shall please the Lord better, says *David*, then an Oxe, or Bullock that hath hornes, and hooves. *Psal. 69. 30, 31.* An Oxe or Bullock that hath hornes, and hooves is taken by a Synecch do he of the part for the whole for all ceremoniall sacrifices and externall rights under the old Testament whatsoever: and from *Dauids* preferring of praise, and thanksgiving unto them, wee may by way of Analogy, and Proportion infer the pecular gratefulnesse, and singular acceptablenesse thereof unto God above all that is positive, ceremoniall, or rituall in the worship of God under the new testament, as Baptisme, the Lords Supper, and discipline &c. In *Beza's* annotations upon the *1 Thessa. 5. 18.* In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ &c. The will of God is paraphrased; *Res des accepta, et quâ in primis delectatur*, a thing acceptable unto God, wherewith hee is especially delighted. And that it is such, I shall cleare by these 5. following reasons.

First, Because God vouchsafeth to account himselfe blessed, honoured, glorified, magnified, exalted &c. thereby.

Secondly, Because in a peace-offering a female was accepted, *Levit. 3. 1.* which might be to signifie, that the

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 the Lord Jesus, a more  
 1st. 20. 35.

On his Anniversary,

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thanks must be given for payment of what is ones own, and due. O then, how deeply doe free, and undeserved favours engage unto thanks, indeed they engage us unto thanks by an higher title, and bond then that of justice. Sinne makes thanksgiving to be, but a potentiall part

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Aquinas makes thanksgiving to be, but a potentiall part  
of iustice, such a part of iustice as the powers and facul-  
ties of the soule are thereof, to bee but a virtue onely.

upon justice. *Magnam*, sayth he. *ex*  
*nem habet, perfectam tamam*  
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[redacted] of religion, piety, observance  
[redacted] giving properly to justice, in *quantum de-*  
*bitatione equalis propter retributionis inequalitatem,*  
because it falls short of that equality in point of retributi-  
on which is required unto justice strictly so termed. What  
shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits towards mee  
*Psal. 116. 12.* sayth the Psalmist, that is, I can render no-  
thing that is answerable unto all, nay to any of all his  
benefits.

Lastly, we are obliged to this duty by the bond of Fidelity, which inclineth us to make good all covenants, and promises made with men, much more with God. Now the covenant of grace of which we have received the Seales, Baptisme, and the Lords Supper, is a mutuall covenant, as a covenant of mercy on Gods part, so a covenant of duty, and service on our part in the generall,



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and in particular tis a covenant of praise and thanksgiving.  
In reference whereunto, one of the seales thereof the  
Lords Supper, is called the *Eucharist* from the Greek  
word for thanksgiving, because one of its cheife ends is  
the giving of thanks, a thankfull celebration, and  
commemoration of Christs death, and all blessings flowing  
therefrom. 24, 25, 26.

and delightfull good. The  
in *Psal.* 135. 3. *Psal.*  
may we be  
stand for all the duty.

Lastly, It is a Profitable good, which  
secures mercies already enjoyed, and procures  
those that are desired and expected.

First, it secures them, it assureth them unto our selves, &  
entayleth them upon our posterities, and nothing but un-  
thankfulnesse shall be ever able to cut off the entayle. Had  
it not beene for unthankfulnesse *Adam* had yet remained  
in Paradise, the lapsed Angels in Heaven the disperfed  
*Jewes* in the land of promise. The *Jewes* have a saying, \*  
that the world standeth upon 3 things, the Law, holy  
Worship, and Retribution: by which I conceive they  
meane that the way to settle and secure our selves in a quiet  
and peaceable enjoyment of the things and blessings of  
this world is obedience to the law of God, zeale and dili-  
gence in the worship of God, and a thankfull retribution  
for the mercies of God. Great blessings that are woone,  
with prayer are faith a \* Divine of this Kingdome; worne  
with

*Arrowsmith.*

\* Thomas  
Goodwin.

\* Ἀπόλεσαι  
 χρήματα; ἀν-  
 μὲν δ' ἡ χάρις ἡ-  
 σης ἐκέρδαναι  
 τὴν ψυχὴν, καὶ  
 μείζονα ἐκτή-  
 σαι τὸν πλεόν,  
 τὸ θεῶν πλεόν  
 ἢ ἀνθρώπων ἐπι-  
 σπάσαντες.  
 ἀναφαίρετον  
 ἡ ἡμῶν.

with thankfulness. There is a passage of *Chrysostome* in his first Homily unto the people of *Antioch*, that proveth the thankfull man to be no looser though hee loote all that he hath. Hast thou sayes hee, lost thy money? if thou art thankfull, thou hast gained thy soule, and obtained greater riches, drawing unto thy selfe greater goodes of God. Thanksgiving is so rich a jewel, that the spirit is countervail all losses whatsoever. In the Homily, but neverthelesse, a great treasure to all other

of victory, even the victory of God, if it be received with thanksgiving: sanctified by the Word of God, and prayer. Principally by the word, by the word of Gods actual power, and providence, command, and blessing by the word of promise, the covenant of grace, the gospel of salvation mixed with, and apprehended by faith Instrumentally, by prayer, as by the prayer of Petition in the obtaining, and enjoyment of mercies, so by the prayer of thanksgiving in the recognition of mercies. The word is the fountaine of this blessing, and sanctification of mercies, and prayer, both of Petition, and Thanksgiving is Gods ordinance for procurement, and application thereof unto us. To open this place a little more fully, wee must inquire what is meant by the sanctification of mercies. It denoteth the enabling of them to yeeld forth their naturall effects, as also the exaltation of them above that which they are in their own nature in regard both of original,

ginall, and effects. Mercies then are sanctified, when they are enabled to yeeld forth their naturall effects, to afford that service and comfort, to performe those offices and operations for which in their own nature they serve. Thus meats and drinckes are sanctified, when they are strengthened to feed, nourish, and refresh us. This degree of the sanctification of mercies, is common to the unthankfull, as well as the thankfull; and therefore there is another degree beyond this, to wit, the advancement of mercies above their naturall condition in regard of both originall and effects. Mercies are then sanctified, when they come from a higher originall then generall providence, when they reach further then naturall effects.

1. When they come from a higher originall then generall and common providence, to wit, from the love of election, and the purchase of Christ, from a right of covenant or promise grounded thereon, from a right of inheritance derived therefrom. The Apostle Paul 1 Cor. 9. 17. *Reynolds*  
makes a distinction between a reward and a dispensation. *Treat.*

*If I preach the Gospel willingly, I have a reward; if against my will, a dispensation is committed to me.* We may make application of the distinction to our present purpose. If mercies, victories and deliverances are received with thanksgiving, they are then enjoyed *ex promisso*, out of Gods promise, as a reward, as additionals unto the kingdom of God, and the righteousness thereof: whereas unto the unthankfull they are but dispensations enjoyed onely *ex largitate*, out of patience and forbearance.

2. Mercies are sanctified when they reach further then their naturall effects, when they are lifted up unto the production of spirituall and supernaturall effects, when they are made instrumentall of sanctification and spirituall consolation.

First, when they are made instrumentall of our sanctification, when they improve our graces, quicken to duties, stirre up holy and heavenly affections, when they help and

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further

further us in the wayes of God. And thus all mercies doe that are received, enjoyed, and used thankfully. Such mercies are as glasses to discover and represent the wise and carefull providence of God towards us, as steps whereby our soules ascend towards God in holy and heavenly contemplations and affections, as needles (to use the similitude of *Austin*) to sew God and our soules together, as golden cords to draw us, and as Anchors to fasten us unto God. As the shining of the Sunne on a garden of Spices, raiseth up a fragrant smell, as a shower of rain makes the Woodbine or hony suckle, as also the Eglantine or sweet-bryer Rose more fresh and sweet: so the Sunshine of mercies, and the showeres of blessings, *Ezek. 34. 26.* on thankfull persons, begets a sweet savour of obedience, betters both their soules and their lives, makes them more faithfull unto God, and fruitfull unto men.

Lastly, sanctified mercies are made instrumentall of spirituall consolation, sound peace of conscience, joy unspeakable and full of glory, arising from an apprehension of a renewed and comfortable estate in such mercies, as also of a testimony of Gods love by them, a discovery of the light of Gods countenance shining through them on us in his Sonne Christ Jesus. A thankfull heart lookes on all mercies, the smallest, meanest mercies, as fruits of Gods special love, as branches of his promises, as returns of his own prayers: and this renders his little, his narrow measure of temporals better, that is, more sweet and comfortable unto him, then the vastest riches and possessions are unto the unthankfull. *Psalm 87. 16.* He findes and feels amidst his greatest wants, a purer, clearer, more unguined, more satisfying gladnesse, then they can take in the greatest increase of their corn and wine. That is very remarkable which *Luke* records of the Primitive Christians, *Act. 2. 46, 7.* in even their persecuted condition, *They did eat their meat with gladnesse and singlenesse of heart, praising God.* They therefore did eat their meat with gladnesse, because

cuse they praised God. The praise of God will make re-  
lishable the meanest and courtest fare, a morsell of brown  
bread, and cup of cold water, &c.

Thirdly, thanksgiving and praise procureth at Gods  
hands new mercies, which are expected and desired not in  
a way of justice, but onely in a way of mercy and libera-  
lity, not out of desert of the duty, but meerly in vertue  
of Gods free grace, and promise in Christ Jesus. Against  
the merit of thanksgiving, I shall onely alledge these two  
Arguments, It is our duty, and Gods free gift. First, our  
duty, as appeares by what we have spoken at large con-  
cerning the justice of it; and our Saviour commands us  
when we have done those things which are commanded,  
to say, We are unprofitable servants, we have done that  
which was our duty to doe, *Luke 17. 9, 10.* Secondly, \* it  
is Gods free gift, as all graces and good works are, *2 Cor.*  
*13. Phil. 2. 29. Phil. 2. 13.* Now free gifts oblige the re-  
ceiver unto gratitude, and not the giver unto any further  
degree, or larger measure of bounty. But although  
thanksgiving cannot be *Medium meritorium* of mercies,  
it is yet of them *Medium impetratorium*, -What is usu-  
ally said of the prayer of petition, is appliable even unto  
the prayer of thanksgiving. It is the key of heaven, which  
unlocketh all the treasures of Gods mercies, both tem-  
porall and spirituall. Deliverance of our selves, and over-  
throw of adversaries, is a mercie highly valued in these  
dangerous times, and what an influence praise hath there-  
on, you may see by comparison of *Psalm 8. 2.* with our  
Saviours quotation of the place, *Matth. 21. 16.* Davids  
words are, *Out of the mouthes of Babes and Sucklings*  
*hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies, that*  
*thou mightest still [or cause to cease] the enemy and the*  
*avenger.* Now our Saviour rendreth strength, praise,  
*Matth. 21. 16.* *Out of the mouthes of Babes and Suck-*  
*lings thou hast perfected praise.* And from these two pla-  
ces compared together, it is obvious to inferre, That the

*Vide Anidum*  
*Mortoni contra*  
*meritum, c 19.*  
*sect. 3.*

\* *Illud quod*  
*sumus & quod*  
*habemus, sive*  
*sint boni actus,*  
*sive boni habi-*  
*tus seu usus, to-*  
*tum est in nobis*  
*ex liberali-*  
*tate divina*  
*gratis danti &*  
*conservante. Et*  
*qui ex dono*  
*gratuito nullus*  
*obligatur ad*  
*dandum amplius,*  
*sed potius reci-*  
*piens magis ob-*  
*ligatur danti. I-*  
*deo ex bonis*  
*habitis & ex*  
*bonis actibus*  
*sive usibus,*  
*nobis à Deo*  
*datis, Deus*  
*non obligatur*  
*vobis & ex a-*  
*liquo debito ju-*  
*sticie ad ali-*  
*quid amplius*  
*dandū, ita quod*  
*si non dederit,*  
*sit injustus, sed*  
*potius nos su-*  
*mus Deo obli-*  
*gati. Durand.*



praises of Babes and Sucklings, the weake and contemptible members of a distressed and persecuted Church, is their strength, such a strength as is able to still the enemy and the avenger, to roat and destroy all the Churches adversaries. Hence it is that the Psalmist for the obtaining of a full and compleat victory against Church-adversaries, advised the Saints to make use as of a two edged sword in their hand, so also of the high praises of God in their mouth, *Psalm 149. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Let the Saints be joyfull in glory, let them sing aloud upon their beds, let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two edged sword in their hands, to execute vengeance upon the Heathen, and punishments upon the people, to bind their Kings with chaines, and their Nobles with fetters of iron, to execute upon them the judgement written, &c.* Of this strength of prayse we have a notable example in the successe of *Jehoshaphat* against the children of *Moab* and *Ammon*, *2 Chro 1. 20, 21, 22.* He appointed Singers unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holinesse as they went out before the Army, and to say, *Praise the Lord, for his mercy endureth for ever.* And when they began to sing, and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of *Ammon*, *Moab*, and *Mount Seir*, which were come against *Judah*, and they were smitten. It was not then you see without good reason, that *Luther* called the prayers and praises of Christians, their Artillery, and Gunnes. If you desire growth in grace, increase of the Spirit, such a perfection and fulnesse of grace as is attainable here in this life, the Apostle *Paul* prescribeth as means of obtaining it, the exercise of Psalmes, and giving of thankes, *Ephes. 5. 18, 19, 20. Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to your selves in Psalmes, and Hymnes, and spirituall Songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving of thankes alwayes, &c.* From which words the pious and learned *Bayn* collecteth, that the exercise of Psalmes, and thanksgiving procure increase of Gods

Gods gracious Spirit. Trumpeters] delight to sound, and Musicians to play there, where they may have their musick resounded back unto them by an echo: so doth God delight to bestow mercies where they are answered with an echo of thanks. The Sunne beames in their passage through the aire, have but a weake heat and light; but when once from some solid body they are reflected upwards, they then gain a great increase, or intention of both: so though Gods mercies and our successes, and deliverances be at first but few and small, if they be reflected back unto God in songs of thanksgiving, how wonderfully will they be enlarged? The earth sends up those vapours to fill the clouds, which shee received from them, and hereby shee gaines a constant supply of seasonable dewes, and rain: so our returnes of thanks unto God for mercies received from him, will draw down on us plentifull and refreshing showres of blessings, *Ezek. 34. 26.* But similitudes onely illustrate, and therefore I shall further confirm the point from Gods promises, and the Saints confident expectation of mercies upon performance of this duty of thanksgiving.

First, from Gods promises of mercies upon our thanksgiving, *Matth. 25. 29.* unto every one that hath, it shall be given, and he shall have abundance. Unto every one that hath, that is, unto every one that useth, and improveth, as diligently, so thankfully unto Gods glory, those Talents of mercy, and gifts of grace, which he hath received from God, shall be given a greater increase, and enlargement of those Talents, and gifts. *Philip. 4. 6, 7.* If thanksgiving bee joyned unto prayer, and supplication, then the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and mindes through Christ Jesus. *Psalme 67. 5, 6.* Let the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee: then shall the earth yeeld her increase, and God even our own God shall blesse us. *Prov. 3. 9, 10.* Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the

*Vide D. Twisse.  
Vind. grat. lib.  
3. digress. 1.*

the first fruits of all thine increase ; so shall thy Barnes be filled with plenty , and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. Now to honour God with our substance, is to praise him with our substance, 1 Sam. 2. 30. Them that honour me I will honour. If we honour God *ad extra*, he will honour us both *ad intra* and *ad extra*. If we glorifie and blesse him declaratively ; if we acknowledge him to be glorious, and blessed, he will glorifie and blesse us operatively, he will make us glorious and blessed. What shall be done to the man, said the King *Ahasuerus* to *Haman*, whom the King delighteth to honour? *Hest. 6. 6.* we may apply the interrogation to our purpose, What shall be done to the Man, to the Town, to the County, to the Kingdome, which God the King of heaven and earth delighteth to honour? how honourable, glorious, and happy shall such a Person, such a Town, such a County, such a Kingdome be? For Gods honouring of us is not like the empty titles of honour amongst men, it carrieth reality with it, and comprehends all sorts and kindes of blessings. Because therefore God delighteth to honour the thankfull, he will even study to heap mercies and successes upon them. Reall and sincere praises then for our many deliverances in the by-past bloody warre, would long ere this have established and made this Kingdome praised in the earth, so that now no new tempest had hung over our heads, there had been an end, not onely of our troubles, but also of our feares and jealousies. This annual commemoration of your deliverance, if there be vigour and life in it, and if it doe not degenerate into matter of form onely, will render you honourable with Gods people, not onely of the present, but also of succeeding Ages ; nay, it will make God himselfe to be a wall of fire round about your Town, and the glory in the midst of her.

Secondly, that thanksgiving obtaineth mercies at Gods hand, is plain from the Saints confident expectation of

of mercies upon their thanksgiving. And of this we have an instance in the Church, *Psal. 124.* where first he relateth, amplifieth, and magnifieth Gods goodnesse in her miraculous deliverance in the seven first verses; she blesteth God for it verse 6. and having finished her thanksgiving, she growes in the last verse unto a boldnesse of hope for future help, *Our help is in the name of the Lord.* From *Hos. 2. 15.* we may gather, that if we sing at the valley of *Achor*, in the borders of the land of *Canaan*, if we be joyfull and thankfull for the beginnings of mercy, the initials of deliverance and reformation, then the valley of *Achor* will be a door of hope, a pawn of, and inlet to future and greater mercies unto a full deliverance, unto a through and perfect reformation. Every mercy that wee sing unto God for, that we are joyfull and thankfull for, we may call as *Rachel* did her first borne, *Joseph. Genes. 30. 24.* that is, *Adding*, and she said, The Lord shall adde to me another sonne. The thankfull man may call his mercies *Josephs*, pledges of constant additionall mercies. And thus have we seen how that mercies are the undoubted fountain, and consequent of thanksgiving, the ground of which is plainly hinted by *Chrysostome* in his 26. Homily on *Genes. 1.* The reason (saith he) why God would have us be thankfull is, that the gain which acreweth thereby, may redound to us, *ἡ μὲν γὰρ εὐχαριστία ἀξίως κατασκευάζεται* and that we may make our selves worthy of greater assistance or help. Thankfulness makes us worthy of mercies, though not with a worthinesse of merit, that deserueth them, yet with a worthinesse of condecency, or fitnessse that preparerth the heart and affections, and maketh them suitable unto mercies. Which acception of worthinesse is very frequent in Scripture, *Luke 3. 8. Luke 7. 1. Luke 20. 35. Luke 21. 36. Ephes. 4. 1. Philip 1. 27. Coloss. 1. 10. 1 Thess. 2. 12. 2 Thess. 1. 5. 11. 3 John 6. Rev. 3. 4 & 16. 6* He that is truly thankfull for past, and received mercies unfainedly, and sincerely, desires



fireth and endeavoureth to render unto God the honour, praise, and glory of them (which was the end God aimed at in bestowing them, and therefore he is though not meritoriously, yet acceptably qualified, and fitted for the receipt of future mercies) he is to use the expression of the Apostle, *Coloss. 1. 12.* Made meet to be a partaker of the inheritance of the Saints in light.

I am now come at length unto the last prooffe of the excellency of thankfulness, and thanksgiving. A comparison of it with other graces and duties: and this comparison shall be first in generall with all other graces and duties: secondly, in speciall with the prayer of petition.

First, in generall with all other graces and duties. In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus, *1 Thess. 5. 18.* where the will of God may, perhaps, be taken by way of excellency, for that which is a principall, and chiefe point of the revealed will of God touching mans duty. Thanksgiving (saith \* *Chrysostome*) hath no good that is equall, or a peere unto it, as there is no evill worse then blasphemy.

Indeed it excells all graces and duties in its end, many in its duration.

1. All of them in its end, Gods glory and honour, though not absolutely, yet in the manner of its reference thereunto; which is more full, expresse, and immediate, then in any other graces, or duties. All other graces and duties aim at this end remotely, but thanksgiving immediately; they all looke towards it virtually and implicitly, but praise and thanksgiving formally and expressly. To celebrate and set forth the honour and glory of God, is the study and businesse of the thankfull man, as his maine, so his sole and proper work.

2. It excells many of them in duration. Many graces and duties, as Faith, Hope, Almes, &c. many Ordinances, as preaching of the Word, Sacraments, Discipline, &c. have place onely in this life, as being required because of the

\* εὐχαριστίας ἵνα ἀγαθόν, ὡς πρὸς ἐλευθερίαν  
Homil. 1. ad pop. Antioch.



the Churches state of imperfection here upon earth : and therefore there is neither need nor use of them in heaven in the Church triumphant, where they shall all be swallowed up in a present, perfect, and full fruition, 1 Cor. 13. 8. Whether there bee prophecies, they shall faile ; whether they be tongues, they shall cease ; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away ; but the grace of thankfulness shall never expire. The duty of thanksgiving is heaven worke, and worship. Rev. 19. 1. and therefore shall last to all eternity, for ever and ever, even when we have obtained salvation to the utmost, our perpetuall task shall be to sing, Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb.

I proceed secondly unto a comparison of thankfulness, and thanksgiving with a prayer of Petition. The prayer of thanksgiving is more Needfull, more Comfortable, more Honourable then the prayer of petition.

First, more Needfull, and that,

First, *Necessitate Præcepti*, wee are more deeply obliged unto the prayer of thanksgiving, then unto the prayer of petition. For, first, lay the matter or object of both duties together in the scales, and see whether, or no, our blessings and deliverances, the matter of thanksgiving, doe not weigh downe to the ground our wants, and miseries, the matter of our petitions. The comparison is easily to be justified in temporall benefits, but as for spirituall ones, there is no comparison to be made betwixt them, and the greatest wants, and sufferings that are imaginable. For they are not to be compared with the smallest skantling of grace, or the least spark, or beame of that glory which shall be revealed in us. Rom. 8. 18.

And, secondly, All our wants, and miseries are not only deserved, but also supererogated for by our sinnes : whereas our mercies are all unmerited. And doth there not lie upon us a greater obligation to bee thankfull for undeserved mercies, then to sue for removall of deserved evils.

F

Secondly,

Secondly, Thanksgiving is more necessary then petition on *necessitate medii*, The prayer of petition is necessary to sanctifie afflictions, but the prayer of thanksgiving is by farre more necessary to sanctifie blessings. For according unto the degree of dangers is proportioned the degree of the necessity of remedies, and prosperity is a more dangerous, a shrewder, and more shaking temptation then adversity. The Sun by the fervency of its beames made the Traveller, (as it is in the Fable) throw away his cloake, whereas a great Wind, and terrible Storme made him wrap it faster about him. We are therefore in greater danger of being swolne, and puffed up with mercies, victories, and deliverances, then of being imbibittered with wants, losses, and crosses; and therefore, there is more need of prayes to sanctifie those, then of petitions to lessen, sweeten, and, as it were, allay the bitterness of these.

Secondly, The prayer of thanksgiving is more Comfortable, then the prayer of petition; because it is a stronger argument of our being in a present estate of grace, and of our title unto a future estate of glory.

1 Tis a stronger argument of our being in a present estate of grace; because a surer evidence of our sincerity, and spirituall ingenuity.

First, of our sincerity, Flesh, and bloud, nature, base selfe-love may put us on a kind of mercenary petitions, which may be consistent with the very depth of hypocrisie, for in them our supposed, and desired good takes the upper hand of Gods glory, Now thanksgiving is a selfe-denying grace, that gives Gods glory the supremacy in all our thoughts, desires, aymes, and proposals, and therefore proceeds from the greatest height, and perfection of of grace, that is attainable in this life.

Tis, secondly, a surer Evidence of our spirituall Ingenuity, even slaves will beg when the whip is shaken over them, servile dispositions may by extremities be dragg'd  
unp

unto petitions, whereas thanksgiving is a free-will offering; not wrung from us by our wants, or necessities: we are drawne unto it onely by the coards of a man, by the bonds of love. *Hos* 12. 4. and therefore it argues a spirit of adoption, a sonne-like temper, and holy freedome, and bravery of spirit.

Secondly, The prayer of thanksgiving is a stronger prooffe of our title unto a future estate of glory, then the prayer of petition: for 'tis a principall worke; and worship of heaven, and can wee have a better argument to assure us, that we shall goe to heaven when we leave the earth, then our love, and performance of the worke, and worship of heaven upon earth? A thankfull soule is a kinde of heaven upon earth, it holds consort with the musick of heaven, and therefore can never bee excluded from heaven.

Lastly, thanksgiving is more honorable then petition, and that for these following reasons.

1. It out-strips it in reference to its end, Gods glory, unto which it lookes more, and contributes more then petition.

It lookes more to Gods glory then petition, because it lookes onely unto 'Gods glory; whereas in petition respect may be had unto our own good. This Argument is used by \* Dr Ames in his Marrow of Divinity. Giving of thanks; is more noble and perfect in it selfe, then petition, because in petition often our own good is eyed and regarded, but in giving of thanks onely Gods honour. The Lord Jesus said; it is more blessed to give then to receive. Now a subordinate end of petition is to receive some good from God, but the sole end of thanks is to give glory unto God.

Secondly, as it aimes more at, so it contributes more unto Gods glory then petition: for it confesseth and magnifieth Gods mercy in actuall blessings and deliverances;

F 2

whereas

\* Nobilior in  
se se & perfe-  
rior est grati-  
arum actio,  
quam petitio:  
quia in petitio-  
ne saepe bonum  
nostrum specta-  
tur, sed in gra-  
tiarum actione  
Dei honor tan-  
tum. Lib. 2. c.  
9. Theol. 93.

whereas in petition there is onely an acknowledgement of Gods ablenesse and willingnesse to blisse and deliver. And it makes more to the praise of ones goodnesse to acknowledge that he hath given, then that hee can or will give.

Field of the Church.

Dr. Edw. Reynolds on Psal.

1. Q. pag. 433-

Secondly, the precedency of praise may be concluded, because it is of greater use in heaven then petition. Some have affirmed, that praise shall bee our whole and onely employment in heaven; but others of equall note for piety and learning, think there is no danger in affirming, that the Saints in heaven, and the blessed Angels doe pray, though not for particular persons, yet for the generall state and condition of the Church militant; as also that the Saints departed pray for their own resurrection, publick acquittal in the day of judgment, and perfect consummation of their happines in their bodies as well as soules. But we need not meddle with this dispute; for though it bee not the whole and onely, yet it is the chiefe work and busines of all the host of heaven, the manhood of Christ, the glorious Angels, and the Spirits of just men made perfect, *Rev. 4. 8. Rev. 7. 12.* They have little use of the prayer of petition, in comparison of the prayer of praise and thanksgiving: the matter of which is as wide as heaven, as infinite as God himselfe, as lasting as eternity. Hence is it that by Bernard in *dedicatione Ecclesie, Serm. 2.* this world is called the house of prayer, he meanes the prayer of petition, and heaven the house of praise. What is heaven but a circle of the beatifical vision and love of God, of praises and songs unto God. As *Austin* speaks, our Circle of employment there will be, *videbimus & vidibimus, videbimus & amabimus, amabimus & laudabimus, laudabimus & cantabimus, &c.* There we shall alwayes delight to see, and seeing to love, and loving to praise, and praising to sing, and singing to praise, and so backe again.

\* Mr. Herle.

Thirdly, the end exceeds that of which it is an end.  
Now



Now as \*Doctor Ames well observeth Giving of thanks is a secondary end of every religious petition for he that craveth any thing at Gods hands as he ought to doe, doth not only therefore crave it, that hee may receive it, much lesse that he may consume it upon his lusts, but that being received it may be referred, or returned back unto the glory of God. For this hee quotes 2 Cor. 1. 11. You also helping together by prayer for us that for the gift bestowed upon us by the meanes of many persons, thanks may be given by many in our behalfe, unto which wee may add 1 Chron. 16. 35. Psal. 106. 47. and say yee, Save us O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the Heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise. Psal. 9. 13. 14 Have mercy upon me, O Lord, consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death, that I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the Daughter of Sion. As also Psal. 142. 6, 7. Attend unto my cry &c. Deliver mee from my persecuters &c. bring my soule out of prison that I may praise thy name.

4. Thanksgiving transcends Petition, because we are naturally more unable for, and averse from it, then petition: for in our natures there is a disability unto, and an aversion from, as all good things, so especially the best things, the most spirituall and refined duties.

1. We are naturally more unable for thanksgiving, because more unmindfull and insensible of benefits and comforts, then of wants, necessities, and crosses: those are written in sand, nay in dust, these in marble, nay in metall, in brasse. Who almost, but is more affected in a way of griefe with the aking of the head, nay finger, then in a way of joy with the health of the whole body?

\* Look as Flies skip over those parts which are smooth,

*adversitia attri-er flectere oculos, præterire quæ læta, ut muscæ & ejusmodi insecta levibus polibusque locis non diu insident scabris adhærescunt, sic querula ista mens, meliorem sortem petens, tran/volat, asperam non dimittit, præter inspicis, plerumque auget: atque ut amantes in domina sua nunquam non inveniunt, cur eximia ea ante omnes: sic dolentes in suo iustin. Lilius de Constantia.*

\* *Gratiarum actio est secundarius finis omnis petitionis religiosa, qui enim recte aliquid petit à Deo, non idcirco tantum petit ut accipiat, ne dum ut in voluptates insumat Jac. 4. 3. sed ut acceptum referatur deinde ad gloriam dei qui dedit. Medul. Theol. l. 2. c. 9. Thess. 9<sup>1</sup>.*

\* *Infirmum hoc à natura humano ingenio*



sound, and healthy, and onely stick upon those which are itchy, scabbed, or any other wayes unsound, diseased, and disaffected : so our mindes, and affections, which naturally are querulous, and discontented, lightly passe over mercies, and joyfull occurrences, but for disasters, and all sad events, they take a serious and through view of them, they stay & even dwell upon them, and receive from them a deep and lasting impression, and so accordingly most tragically amplify them, as if they were peacelesse. That deliverance which hath occasioned our meeting at this present, was so allyed unto a miracle, and withall so great, and I may say, generall concernment, as that God might justly expect from all wel-willers unto the publick, a ravishment of joy, such a doxology which *Hierome*, if I forget not, relates of the Primitive Church, that was like a clap of Thunder, and roaring of of the Sea: such an extasie of thanks as the Psalmist reports of the Jewes, *Psalm 126.* who were like men that dreame, their mouthes being filled with laughter, and their tongues with singing. But now our earnall temper doe so unfit and indispose us for this most spiritual duty, as that passed losses of a farre inferior alloy, and present fears and jealousies doe not onely allay, but even drown the voyce of our joy an thanksgiving. \*

\* Mr *Marshall* in his Sermon preached to the House of

Commons, *Septemb. 7. 1641.* at their publick thanksgiving for the peace concluded between England and Scotland, hath in his Preface a remarkable passage touching this argument: In a day of humiliation, saith he, even wicked men have affections stirring in them conscioulines of evil, guiltinesse of mind, sense of wrath, astonishing and oppressing feares arising from the apprehension of neere and unavoydable dangers, are naturall meanes to make even *Pharaohs*, *Ahabbs*, and *Ninevites* mourn, and humble themselves before God. But in a keeping a spirituall reioycing unto God, little or no help is to be expected from the flesh: and that is one reason why commonly dayes of thanksgiving are translated with much lesse affection, life, and savour, then dayes of Humiliation.

Secondly, We are more averse from the prayer of thanksgiving then from the prayer of petition, as will easily appeare by comparison of our petitions with our thankes

thanks and praises, in regard of both Quantity and Quality, Number and Duration, also Weight, or Zeale. I want and afflictions lie heavy on us, wee are clamorous and important suiters, like the Widow, *Luke 18.* we will have no nay, like *Iacob*, we even wrastle with God, and will not let him goe untill he blesse and deliver us, *Genes. 32. 26.* Well, God heares us, and grants all, nay more then we desire, and we presently grow unregardfull to returne God his praise and honour; so our turnes be once served, we take little or no care whether God be glorified, *Psal. 78. 34, 35, 36, 37.* It is with most of us as with mariners, who will pray and howle in a storme, but when a calm succeeds, when they are gotten into a safe harbour, or landed on the shore, they seeme as if they had forgotten all their past danger, their devotion presently cooles, and they seldome render unto God so much as the forme, and out-side of thankfulness. *Pharaoh* desires *Moses* and *Aaron* to intreat the Lord to take away severall plagues from him, *Exod. 8. 8. Exod. 9. 28. Exod. 10. 16.* but he never invites them to joyn with him in praises for deliverance from these plagues.

*Bernard contra:  
pessimum viti-  
um ingrati-  
tudinis.*

All the ten Lepers were loud and earnest in their cryes for remedy, *Luke 17. 13.* but when they were healed, there was but one of them returned to give glory unto God, *Luke 17. 13, 15, 16, 17, 18.*

\* *Themistocles* compared himselfe unto a Plaine tree, for as Travellers in a storm would run to a Plain-tree for shelter, but when once the heavens were cleared, leave the tree, and rend its boughes: so the *Athenians*, said hee, in time of warre or danger runne to me, as to a common Father, but in times of peace, and security, they reward me with nothing but accusations and banishment. Just so we deale with God, when the stormes of his indignation beat upon us, wee runne unto him with open mouthes, and even besiege him with our petitions, like thole *Hos. 5. 15.* In our afflictions we seek him early, like them.

\* *Causinus  
Hierogl.*

them *Psa.* 75. 34. when he slayes us then we seek him, and return, and enquire early after God, and remember that God is our Rock, and the high God our redeemer; but when the tempest of wrath is blown over, we are so farre from compailing him about with songs of deliverance, as that some of us teare his name even in pieces with horrid oathes and blasphemies: the best of us grieve his Spirit, and provoke the eyes of his glory by renewing and multiplying our abominations. Others, who pretend most unto thankfulness, give unto him as great affronts almost as are imaginable; for they contemn all his Ordinances, vilifie his most sacred Scriptures, call in question, nay deny the most precious and fundamentall of Divine truths, bespatter the faithfulllest of his Ministers and servants. For a finall prooffe of this particular, I shall desire you of this place to reflect upon your selves, to compare your selves with your selves, to balance the earnestnesse and violence of the petitions that you put up to God in your straight and close siege, especially in that dreadfull storming of your towne, *May* 8. and 9, *Anno Dom.* 1645. with the coldness and dulness of the thanks that you have returned upon, and since your deliverance. When the thunder of Ordinance, the warlike sound of Drummes and Trumpets, the clattering of Armour and Armes, the bloody threats of your adversaries, the hideous groans and cries of wounded and dying men, the dolefull lamentations of your wives and children, the groves of pikes that stood ready to charge you, the showres of lead that fell round about you, the terror of a devouring fire on all hands of you, and before you, and behind you, presented nothing but horror, death and ruine, to your distracted and amazed senses; I beleeve then there were few hearts amongst you so Atheisticall, as not to powre out seemingly zealous petitions for succour and deliverance. But when the storme was over, the siege raised, and you freed from sense and fear of your fore-past danger, I dare appeale to all your bosomes

bosomes, whether the prayſes, and thanks of the beſt among you, did not fall very ſhort of the petitions, that you powred out in your extremity, whether they were not fewer, colder, duller, more liveles, and heartles.

And thus have I done with the Confirmation of the point, upon which, if any thinke I have ſtood over-long, becauſe tis undenyable cleare and evident, I ſhall deſire them to conſider, that in Practicall points; Reaſons have the nature, and force of Motives, and are uſed, not ſo much to prove a thing unto the Judgment, as to preſſe it upon the heart and conſcience.

*The Uſes ſhall bee either of Information, or Exhortation.*

Fiſt, Information, and that touching. 1. the ſubject, 2. the oppoſite of praife, and thankſgiving.

Fiſt, Touching the ſubject of praife, and thankſgiving, and it ſhall be that of the Pſalmiſt *Pſal. 33. 1.* Praiſe is comely for the upright. Which words are to be taken excluſively, Prayſe is only comely for the upright. And the reaſon of it is held out in the point wee have now handled. Thankfulneſſe is an excellent grace, praife, and thankſgiving an excellent duty, and therefore it only becomes the Saints, that are in the earth, unto whom the Epithite of excellent is appropriated. *Pſal. 16. 3.* It hath a ſurableneſſe unto them, and therefore beſeemes them beſt. *Tacitus* ſpeaking of certaine words of *Tiberius*, ſayth they were, *praclara verba, ſed non pro Tiberio*, very excellent words, but not ſuteing with *Tiberius*. The like may we ſay of words of thankſgiving uttered by ungodly men. They are very good, and excellent in themſelves, but very much unbefitting them. For as *Theophylact* upon *Luke the 4.* *Non eſt ꝑecioſa Laus in ore ꝑecatoris*. Praiſe is not ſeemly or comely in the mouth of a ſinner. *Prov. 17. 7.* Excellent ſpeech, or the lip of excellency, ſayth *Solomon*, becommeth not a ſooke, that is, a ſinner. It is like beauty in a woman without diſcretion,



a Jewell of gold in a Swines snout. *Prov. 11. 22* And the reason of it is that which *Tacitus* gave of his dislike of other words of *Tiberius*. *Nec enim ad hanc formam tulerant*; his other words, and actions are not of the same stamp, but of a farre different straine. His other words are vaine, idle, unfavoury words of blasphemy against God, words of calumny against his brethren. As

\* *James* sayth. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing, and cursing; the incongruence of which wee have  
\* *Iam. 3. 10.* *vers. 11.* Doth a fountaine send forth at the same place, sweete water, and bitter. And then for his actions they are also as unfuteable unto the language of praise; for they sound forth Gods dispraise, and dishonour in a louder accent then his lipps his praise. *Lingua benedicit, sed ora maledicit.* *Canticum novum & vetus homo male concordant*, sayth *Augustin* on *Psal. 149.* A new song soundeth very ill-favouredly, loofeth much of its grace, and rellish from the old mans mouth; *Cantet canticum novum qui nova est creatura, qui novam prestat obedientiam*, let him sing a new song that is a new creature that performes new obedience, that leades a new life.

The second use of Information concernes the opposite, or contrary of thanksgiving, Unthankfulness. *Contrarium contraria est consequentia*, of contraries there be contrary inferences: so, then from the excellency of thanksgiving, we may conclude the baseness, vilenesse, and unworthynesse of unthankfulness. And in discovery hereof Wee shall runne, so farre, as wee can, a methode parallel unto that wee have used in the prooffe of the excellency of thanksgiving. Wee shall proove it to bee a base, vile, and unworthy vice from its Subject, Comprehensiveness, causes, from the operation which it bears unto all sorts or kindes of goodnes, unto vertue, pleasure and profit.

First, the subjects in which reigning and unmortified unthankfulness is seated, are Devils, damned Spirits, wicked and unregenerate men. For all other creatures yield



unto God such praise as their low natures are capable of, *Psalm 19. 1.* The Heavens declare the glory of God. The beasts of the field shall honour me, saith God, *Isai. 43. 20.* the Dragons and the Owles, &c. Unthankfulness then doth wonderfully debase us; it unmans us, throwes us who are by nature but a little lower then the Angels, beneath the very beasts that perish: it rankes us with Devils, damned Spirits, and gracelesse men.

Secondly, you may conclude the baseness of unthankfulness from the Comprehensiveness thereof. It is the Epitome of all vices. *Omnia dixeris si ingratum dixeris.* It is a comprehensive and originall sin which lies at the root of all other sins, and therefore \* *Aquinas* affirmeth, that there is a kind of materiall ingratitude in every sinne we commit. In all our sins there is a spice of unthankfulness. Gods mercies are over all his workes, *Psalm 145. 9.* they reach over the whole world; and unthankfulness, as if it studied to keep in some sort a proportionable pace unto Gods goodness, overspreads the lesser world, our whole natures. The unthankful mans understanding is ignorance, his memory forgetfulness, his will and affections disregardfull of Gods blessings, his tongue silent in the recounting of them, his whole man backward in making requitall for them: nay, of so diffusive and spreading a nature is it, as that it runs out into our very ornaments and excrements, our apparell and haire. Neither stoppes it here, but is extended further, even unto all blessings whatsoever, that are without us; for it makes them all instrumentall of Gods dishonour, it doth as it were muster them up to doe God disservice, and even fight against him and his.

Thirdly, the vilenesse of unthankfulness may be inferred from the baseness of its causes, the reigne and mortification of sinne in generall, and in particular:

1. Hardness of Heart.
2. Ignorance.
3. Unbelieve.

G 2

4. Wan

Abernethy.

\* In quolibet peccato est materialis ingratitude ad Deum, in quantum scilicet facit homo aliquid quod potest ad ingratitudinem pertinere. Formaliter autem ingratitude est quando actualiter beneficium contemnitur. 222. q. 107. art. 2.

4. Want of the love of God.

5. Pride.

6. Envie.

7. Covetousness.

First then the reign and unmortification of sinne in generall, is a cause of unthankfulnesse, and that because it makes us faile in the observation, and in the valuation of blessings.

First, in the observation of them; for it carries the soule downward, and will not suffer it so much as to look upward unto God the Author of every mercy, and therefore the unmortified sinner hath not many of his mercies, so much as a glimpse of the light of Gods countenance: your sinnes, lusts and corruptions, if they be not mortified, will hinder from a right apprehension of the mercy which we this day celebrate, they will fix your thoughts upon the deliverance it selfe, and will eclipse that hand which wrought it, they will be as a mist to cloud those beames of providence which met therein.

Secondly, unmortified lusts disable for a due estimation of mercies.

First, because they sever from God, from the sight, and enjoyment of him, without whom what is the raising of your siege, the deliverance of your Towne, but a cypher: if God be not chiefly prized in mercies, our valuation of them is grosse and unspirituall.

Secondly, unmortified lusts unsweeten imbitter the greatest mercies, they put a thorn and a curse into them. As unto a palate prepossessed with bitterness, the daintiest viands taste bitter: so a soule that is filled with the ground of bitterness, and vexation of sin, meets with nothing but vanity and vexation of spirit in the sweetest blessings. As a green wound smarteth though touched with the softest lawn: so an ulcerous and sinfull soule is grieved and discontented at, and therefore unthankfull for the most tender

tender mercies. Unmortified sinners never knew the right use of mercies, victories, and deliverances, never felt that solid comfort which they yeeld when sanctified by the Word and prayer, when one meetes with God in them. For they are unto them as snares, which work for the worst unto them, which occasion in them nothing but pride, security, presumption, and hardnesse of heart; and therefore it is impossible, that whilst they remaine in that estate, they should value them as they ought: and consequently be thankfull for them.

The influence that the reigne and unmortification of sinne hath upon unthankfulnesse, will the better appeare, if we consider the severall denominations thereof. It is an estate of death in sin, an estate of bondage and slavery unto sin.

First, an estate of death in sinne, *Ephes. 2. 1.* and to use the words of the Psalmist, *Psalms 115. 17.* The dead praise not the Lord: their praises are as all other workes that goe before repentance, or conversion, *Heb 6. 1.* A dead worke, that hath only the picture and form of thankfulness. Powre the hottest & strongest waters into a dead man, make the greatest fires about him, cloath him with the costliest robes, anoynt him with the most pretious oynments, he feels it not. thanks you not. Just so it fares with one dead in sins and trespasses, notwithstanding the extreame warmth of Gods blessings within him, without him, above him, beneath him, on every hand of him, though he be cloathed with, and made up of them, though he feed; nay tread on them, yet he is not truly sensible of them, and cannot by them (untill God enliven his soule) be possibly quickned unto any due, and acceptable performance of the duty of thanksgiving in the least degree and measure. Without spirituall life then, you see you doe but fill up a roome, you can beare no part in the inward and spirituall part of the duty of the day; and in regard of that which you outwardly contribute unto the worke, why,

why, you are but as dull and livelesse images, which cannot move naturally of themselves, all your motion herein is but compulsory, from outward respects, not flowing from any true inward inclination.

Secondly, the reigne and unmortification of sinne, is an estate of slavery and bondage unto sinne. *Rom 6. 16.* and therefore inconsistent with thankfulness, which is of so excellent a nature, as that it never lodged in any, but free, brave, and ingenuous bosomes. As for base, low, and servile spirits, they are unacquainted with, and incapable of it. No man can serve two Masters, *Math 6. 24.* Now thanksgiving is an immediate and speciall service of God, and therefore unperformable by the servants of sinne, and Satan. Consider the excellency and difficulty of the duty, and then tell me whether or no we can possibly performe it without enlarged hearts, hearts freed from the commands of sinne, and Satan. What can a prisoner doe that is laden with Irons and fetters? Alas then, what can an imprisoned and fettered soule doe in this most great and difficult work of a Christian. And thus have you seen how the reigne and unmortification of sinne, causeth unthankfulness. Now there cannot be a baser and viler estate or condition, then that of the reigne of sin, for it is a deprivation of the best of blessings (spirituall, and a subjection unto the worst of tyrants, a slavery and bondage unto the worst of masters, sin and Satan. Unthankfulness then proceeding therefrom, cannot but be most vile, base, and unworthy.

In the next place, let us specifie those particular sinnes which cause unthankfulness. The first I shall mention, shall be hardnes of heart: An hard and stony heart (whilst such) cannot possibly be softened or melted into a gratefull disposition by the greatest sun-shine of Gods most tender mercies. Rain you know will seldome stay upon a stone, at least it will not sink into a stone: even so Gods mercies cannot fasten on the observation, settle in the memory  
of



of an hard and stony soule ; they slide away from it, as water from a stone. However, they can make no more impression on its affections, then a Seale on wax whilest hard: they cannot soak or sink into its joy, love and admiration. Hardnes of heart begets unthankfulness, and an hard heart is of a very base temper, it is an untractable, unteachable, unsensible, inflexible heart, and therefore so is an unthankfull heart too.

Secondly, Ignorance is a cause of unthankfulness: ignorance of our selves, of God, of his blessings. He that is ignorant of his own weaknes, and unworthines; that knows not how unable he is either to procure, or deserve mercies, he that is ignorant of Gods providence, that knows not what stroak it hath in the managery of these inferiour things, can reach no further then the Pharisees thanksgiving, *Luke 18. 11, 12, 14.* which indeed was nothing, but a boasting, and cracking of mercies. He that is not studied in the excellency, and sweetnes of blessings will quickly undervalue them; and therefore be unthankfull for them. Darknes and dimnes in the eys of our mind in discerning blessings, will be fellowed with a dumbnes of the tongue, and a deadnes of the heart, and affections in praising God for them, *Deutr. 32. 6.* Doe yee thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? It is folly, and unwisedome that makes a people to requite the Lord unthankfully. Now ignorance wonderfully debaseth the minde of man. *Proverb. 19. vers. 2.* that the soule bee without knowledge is not good; it renders a man brutish *Psalms 92. 6.* *A brutish man knoweth not, neither doth a foole understand this.* *Psalms 32. 9.* *Be not as the horse, or as the mule which have no understanding.* To have no understanding is to be as a horse and the mule.

Thirdly, Unbelief is a cause of unthankfulness; for it stayes and rests upon a mans self and the creature, and so stops all honour and glory from going to God and Christ. Now unbelief is of all sins the most dangerous, because it is,



Dr. Edward  
Reynolds treat.  
pag. 496.

is the edge and sting of all other finnes, that which shackles the guilt of all finnes upon the conscience. All finnes are damnable in their nature and desert, but unbeleif makes them to condemn actually in regard of the event, *Joh. 3. 18. 36.*

Fourthly, Want of the love of God is a cause of unthankfulness. For how can he that doth not love God above all be more desirous and studious of Gods glory then his own good? and can there be a greater sin of omission then not to love the supream and infinite good?

Fifthly, Pride is a cause of unthankfulness, *Hos. 13. v. 6. Their heart was exalted, therefore have they forgot me:* and to be forgetfull is to be unthankfull. *2 Chron. 36. 25.* But *Hezekiah* rendred not again, according to the benefit done to him, for his heart was lifted up. This dependance of unthankfulness upon pride, may be evinced from these two reasons.

1 The proud man underrates Gods mercies, as not answerable, or but answerable unto his own deservings. Hence also is it, that he looks upon his afflictions, as undeserved, and therefore, as injuries, and consequently upon deliverance from them not as mercies, but onely as a kinde of restitution and satisfaction: so that we may apply unto him that which \* *Craterus* informed *Alexander* witten against *Philotas*. *Alexander* had pardoned *Philotas*, and *Craterus* bears him in hand that *Philotas* will not bee so thankfull for his pardon, as angry at his accusation, *Quendam beneficia odimus, meruisse mortem confiteri pudet: superest ut mallet videri injuriam accepisse quam vitam.*

\* *Quintus Curtius.*

Secondly, A proud man will rob God of his honour and arrogate it unto himself. The proud scholler will ascribe his learning unto his industry, the proud souldier his victory unto his sword, and prowess, the proud worldling his riches unto his labour, and policy; he will sacrifice unto his nets, burn incense unto his drags, as if by them his portion were made fat, and his meat plenteous, *Hab. 1. 16.*

1. 16. he will say in his heart, my power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. *Deutr.* 8. 17. now pride is reckoned up *Prov.* 6. 16, 17. amongst the principall objects of Gods hatred, and abomination, *Psal.* 101.

5. Him that hath an high look and a proud heart will I not suffer, or I cannot suffer, (as *Ainsworth*, and others reade it) the word suffer is but supplied by the translation, as being to be understood, in the original tis only. Him that hath an high look, and a proud heart I will not, or I cannot \* Gods abrupt breaking off his speech denoteth the very hight of his indignation against an high look, and a proud heart. 1 *Pet.* 5. v. 5. God resisteth the proud. Pride puts God upon a defensive war it being an invasion of, and an assault upon his Throne, and usurpation of his crown, and the incommunicable prerogative thereof.

\* *Dr. Donne*

Another cause of unthankfulness is envy, then which there can hardly be a greater violation of the charity we owe to our neighbour: it is a fretfull, sullen, dogged, and snarling vice, rottenness unto the bones saith *Solomon*, *Prov.* 14. 30. And this base and unworthy sin doth alwayes produce ingratitude. The envious man undervalueth all that he hath, because he supposeth it to be short of what others have. He that hath an evill eye, a repyning heart, because God is good to others slights Gods goodness to himself, and repays it with nothing, but discontent, and murmuring; which are extreemly contrary unto that joy contentation, and complacency in blessings which are essentiall unto thanksgiving.

*Non potest autem quisquam invidere et gratias agere*

*quia invidere querenti et maesti est, gratias agere gaudenti.* Senec. de Benef. lib. 2. c. 3. Omnibus his vehementius et importunius malum est invidia quam nos inquietat, dum comparat. Hoc mihi praestitit, sed illi plus, sed illi maius. Id. de Benef. lib. 2. c. 27, 28.

The last cause of unthankfulness which I will make mention of respects these outward things, and it is covetousnes, or greedines of our desires after them; which is in *Pauls* censure Idolatry, *Colos.* 3. 5. and in the account of all ingenuous men the most sordid of vices. It ariseth from sup-

H

posals,

posals, and hopes of more good, then it findes in the enjoyment of them. When we have outclimmed our most boundlesse desires, like *Ixion*; we doe but embrace a cloud, instead of our desired *Juno*, grasp a shadow instead of that solid comfort, and content which we promised unto our selves: and this deceiving of our expectations makes us loath those things which before we so eagerly desired and pursued. 2 *Sam* 13. 2, 15. at least it abateth much of our valuation of them, and consequently of our thankfulness for them. \* Besides this inordinateness of our desires makes us in a fallen neglect, and discontent overlook and underprize the many blessings which we have for the want of one which we crave and long after.

\* Non patitur  
aviditas quen-  
quam esse gra-  
tiam, nunquam  
enim impro-

bæ spei quod datur satia est. Eo majora capimus quo majora venerunt: multisque contrior est avaritia in magnarum opum congestu collocata. Ut flamma infinito accrevit, quo ex majore incendio emicuit. Et quæ ambitio non patitur, quæquam in ea mensura nobis conquiescere quæ quondam ejus fuit impudens vorum. Nemo agit de tribuatu gratiæ, sed queritur quod non est ad Præturam usque perductum: nec hæc grata est, si deest consuetudo; ne hic quidem satia sit mensura est. Ultra se cupiditas porrigit & felicitatem suam non intelligit: quia non modo venerit respicit, sed quærenda. Senec. de Benef. lib. 2. c. 17. 28. Præter hanc causam alia quoque sunt, quæ nobis merita non nunquam maxima velant. Primum omnium ac potissima quod novis semper cupiditatibus occupati, non quid habemus sed quid petamus inspicimus. Non in id quod est sed quod appetitur intenti. Quicquid enim domus, velle est. Sequitur autem ut ubi quod acceperis leve novorum cupiditas fecit, avarit quoque omnino sit in pretio. Id. de Benef. lib. 3. c. 3. Caduca memoria est futuro imminetium. Id. lib.

Lastly, I shall shew the baseness of unthankfulness from the opposition which it bears unto all sorts, or kinds of goodness, unto Virtue, Pleasure, and Profit.

First, from the opposition it bears unto an honest, or virtuous good; This we have implied in the interrogation of *Moses*, *Deutr*. 32, 6. concerning the ingratitude of *Israel*. Doe yee thus requite the Lord? for it amounteth unto a sharp reprehension, and may be thus expressed. Are yee not ashamed thus to requite the Lord? Nay it may denote a deep admiration at the greatness of their sin. Doe yee thus requite the Lord, that is, Is it possible that you should be so base and vile to make so bad, and unworthy a return

return unto God for his favours? But in the remainder of the verse, we have their unthankfulness aggravated from the folly and injustice of it. First from the folly of it; doe yee thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? are yee so foolish and unwise, thus to requite him upon whose meer will and pleasure depends all your good and happiness? Secondly, from the injustice of it: doe yee thus requite the Lord? is not he thy Father, that hath bought thee, hath he not made thee, and established thee? The sweet name, and relation of a Father made good by the mercies of Creation, Preservation and redemption, ~~and redemption~~ <sup>and redemption</sup> is a better requitall. The wonderfull obliquitie and deformity of this sin, is set forth very Rhetorically in the Prophet *Isaiah cap. 1. vers. 2, 3, 4*. Where, first, God declareth wherein the unthankfulness of *Judah* and *Jerusalem* did stand. First, they were peccant in requital of mercies. I have nourished and brought up children, and they rebelled against mee, *vers. 2*. Secondly, they failed in the observation of mercies, *vers. 3*. The Ox knoweth his owner and the Ass his masters crib, but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. In the *4 verse*, wee have Gods censure of them for their unthankfulness. He censured them to be a sinfull Nation, a People laden with iniquity, a seed of evill doers, children that are corrupters, to have forsaken the Lord, to have provoked the holy One of Israel unto anger, to have gone away backward. In the third verse, you have a comparative censure of them for this their unthankfulness: It renders them worse then the Ox or Ass. And lastly, which is the greatest amplification that can be of its heynousnes; he brings in God speaking after the manner of men, as if he were affected with wonder and grieve at their ingratitude. First, with wonder and amazement. Heare O heavens and give care O earth. *verse 2*. God stands as if he were amazed that they should dare to commit so high and heynous a crime; and for it he arraigns them, not before men or angels, but



(to \* note the horreur of the vice ) before the senselesse creatures, the heaven and the earth, that all the corners, and creatures of the world may both know and detest it. Lastly, *vers. 4.* he makes as if God were grieved and troubled at it, it draws a sigh from him ; ah, sinfull nation, &c.

To discover the heynousnesse of this sin, we will take a view of its both Formal and Causal Obliquity, that which is found in it self, and that which it causeth in other sins.

First, if we consider it formally in it self, the obliquity of it is very great : for it is a transgression against Religion, Charity and Fidelity.

First, against Religion. To give thanks and praises, is to honour and glorifie God, *Psal. 50. 23.* and therefore by the rule of contraries, unthankfulness dishonours God. Hence *Paul* couples the not-glorifying of God with unthankfulness. They glorified him not as God ; neither were thankfull : and indeed it goes about to rob God of the glory of almost all his attributes, especially of that darling attribute of his mercy : in the dispensation and manifestation of which he especially delighteth. *Mic. 6. 8.* whose effects are over all the works of his other attributes which are equally infinite and glorious in himselfe.

Religion can hardly be violated by any thing more then by Idolatry, Heresie, Apostacy, and all these are found in unthankfulness unto God.

First, Idolatry for the unthankfull attribute mercies unto either themselves or their fellow creatures ; and this in scripture language is a sacrificing unto their net, a burning of incense unto their drag. *Hab. 1. 16.*

Secondly, Heresie, and one of the grossest of Heresies *Pelagianisme*. Whereupon, *Prosper* intituled his Poems against the *Pelagians*, *Contra ingratos*, against the unthankfull, thereby intimating, not onely that the *Pelagians* were unthankfull, but also that unthankfull persons were all in some respect *Pelagians* because as *Pelagians* they magnified nature, selfe, their own deserts, and holines  
and



and debased Gods free grace and goodnes.

Thirdly, Apostacy, God in *Isaiab cap. 1. v. 2, 3.* accuseth *Judah* of ingratitude, and vers. 4. he censureth them for it, to be revolvers and back-sliders; They have forsaken the Lord, they have gone a way backward. God chargeth the Jews, *Ier. 2. 5.* that they were gone farre from him, and he proves the charge from their unthankfulnesse, verse 6. because they did not thankfully recognize his deliverance of them out of *Aegypt*, neither said they, where is the Lord that brought us up out of the land of *Aegypt*.

Secondly, It is a transgression against justice, for it is a refusal to make payment of that which we ow unto God as a debt; it is a withholding of that rent and tribute, which is due unto him for his mercies. This injustice of unthankfulnesse is against a principle and law of nature, deeply engraven in the hearts of all men. The very *Philistines* prayed their Dagon for the deliverance of *Sampson* into their hands, *Judg. 16. 23, 24.* In *Jonah cap. 1. 16.* you have heathenish mariners offering a sacrifice unto the Lord, for causing a tempest to cease. And as for unthankfulness towards men, it hath been declined by the worst of men. Even Publicans and Sinners, saith our Saviour; love and doe good to those who love and doe good to them, *Luke 6. 33.* *Zenaphon* relates, that it was a crime actionable; and severely punishable amongst the *Persians*. And *Seneca* intimateth as much concerning the *Macedonians*. Indeed he himselfe thought it not fit that it should be impleaded, and fined with any set mulct: but it was not out of any favourable opinion that hee had thereof, neither saith he, absolve we the same; but whereas the judgement of a thing uncertain is difficult, we have only condemned it with hatred, and left it among those things, which we refer to the justice and judgement of the gods. The same author hath a very remarkable story of the severity of *Philip of Macedon* upon a Souldier, that most ungratefully had begg'd the lands of one who had saved his life, and

Keckerm. de  
Monarchia  
Perfarum.

\* Senec de  
Benef. l. 3. c. 6.

\* Neque absol-  
vimus illud, sed  
cum difficulte ef-  
set incerta rei  
astinatio, tan-  
tum odio dim-  
navimus, et in-  
ter ea reliqui-  
mus, quod  
vindicta deo  
mittimus.  
de Benef.  
3. c. 6.

*Idem de benef.  
lib. 4. c. 27.*

very hospitably had entertained and relieved him, when he was shipwrackt and cast away at Sea; he was so displeased with him, that he commanded *Pansanias* to brand him in the forehead, to witnesse that he was an ungrateful guest. The injustice of our unthankfulness is, you see, short then Heathenish, nay tis more then brutish, *Isai. 43. 20.* The beasts of the field shall honour me, the Dragons and the Owles, because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The Storkes doe nourish and carry their Dammes by whom they are bred, and fed. God hath nourished us, and brought us up as children, and yet we have rebelled against him. *Isai. 1. 2.* The Oxe knoweth his owner, and the Ass his masters Crib, but we (like Israel) doe not know, doe not consider, verse 3. Famous is the story of *Andromeda* whom the Lyon saved for pulling the stub out of his foot. God hath pulled the sting of sin out of our soules, and what coldnesse or remissnesse of love, and zeale for him, and his love, have wee answered it with? When *Sabinus* by the command of *Tiberius* was put to death, his Dog expressed a very gracefull respect unto him, hee lay downe by his dead body, brought to his mouth the bread that was given him: and when he was cast into *Tyber*, the violence of the waves deterred him not from doing his last office unto his Master; for he leap'd after him, to keep him up that he might not sinke to the bottome. This poore beast hazarded his life for his master, which may very well put us unto the blush, who are very loath to venture a y thing for the glory, cause, and Church of God, and Christ. Not onely death, but the least threats and frownes, of great men, the reproaches of the vilest, and most contemptible of men, startle us from not onely the performance, but also profession of those respects which Gods benefits challenge at our hands.

Thirdly, it is a transgression against Charity, a violation of that love we owe unto God. First, of the love of uni-

on, and desire, \* For by that we give our selves unto the person or thing which is beloved; and the unthankfull man detaineth himselfe from God and Christ, and yeelds himselfe up unto his lusts and corruptions. Secondly, it is a violation of the love of Complacency, or delight; because it hinders that joy and delight in the gifts of God, and in God the giver, which they and he deserve. Lastly, it is a violation of the love of Benevolence, which is defined by Dr \* *Ames* out of the Schoolmen, to be an affection whereby we yeeld or resigne up our whole selves unto God, whereby we will and endeavour that all things be given or carried unto him, which appertain unto his glory.

Lastly, it is a transgression against Fidelity, a breach of the covenant that hath been sealed between God and us in our Baptisme, and the Supper of the Lord. For that is a Covenant, as I have shewed already, as of mercy on Gods part, so of gratitude on our part. Our unthankfulness then is in Gods account a double sinne, not onely a deviation from his Law, but also an infringement of our own voluntary covenant and engagement, and therefore accompanied with falsehood, and a kind of perjury unto heaven.

And this of the formall obliquity of unthankfulness, which receives much aggravation from the persons in whom it is their quality, the causes which they have for, and the meanes which they have of thankfulness. The unthankfulness of men is of a deeper guilt then that of Devils, because men are unthankfull for the patience and long-suffering of God, for the blood of Jesus Christ; merites never vouchsafed to Devils. The unthankfulness of Gods people is of a greater demerit then that of aliens. In that charge of ingratitude upon Israel, *Hos. 2:8* Shee did not know that I gave her corne, and wine, and oyle, and multiplied her gold, and silver, &c. Interpreters observe, that the word *Shee* is emphaticall, and serveth much to aggravate the sinne, that *Shee*, unto whom God had com-

\* *Amor non nisi donum amamus in amatum.*  
Guliel. Paris. de legibus, cap. 19.

\* *Amor benevolentia est affectus quo nos totos Deo tradimus, et volumus, atque conamur, ut omnia ipsi deferantur ad ejus gloriam.*  
Apoc. 4. 10. 11.  
1. Cor. 10. 31.  
Medul. theol. li. 1. c. 7. Thef. 13.

\* *Dico ego, vobis, quoniam pro meo sapere, nihil ita displicet Deo, praesertim in filiis gratia, in hominibus conversionis quemadmodum ingratisudo.*  
Bern. de misericordiis, Serm. 2.

committed his Oracles, given his love, sent his Prophets, should bereave him of the honour of his benefices, was an offence by farre more heynous, then if it had been done by the Heathen, who had only the light of Nature, and the Book of the Creatures for their instruction.

A word next of the causall obliquity of unthankfulness, that which it causeth in other sinnes, and that both as a physicall or working, and as a morall or meritorious cause.

First, it hath a Physicall influence in the increase of sin: for it disposeth and prepareth the minde of man, for even the most unnaturall sinnes; a soule prophaned and polluted therewith, will not scruple at the height of mischief. The despising of the riches of Gods goodnesse, and forbearance, and long-suffering, is in the fifth verse followed

Rom. 2. 4.

\* *Eriunt homi-  
cida, tyranni,  
fures, adulteri,  
raptores, sacri  
legi, proditores.  
infra ista omni  
ingratus est, nisi  
quod omnia ista  
ab ingrato ani-  
mo sunt, sine quo  
vix ullum mag-  
num facinus  
accrevit. Sen.  
de Benef. lib.  
2. c. 10.*

\* with hardnes and an impenitent heart. In all times (saith Seneca) there will bee Murderers, Tyrants, Theeves, Adulterers, Robbers, Sacrilegious persons, and Traytors, and the least of all these is the ungratefull man. Hee speakes of ingratitude towards man, but then he puts in an exception, *Nisi quod omnia ista ab ingrato animo sunt, sine quo vix ullum magnum facinus accrevit*, except it be that all these come from ingratitude, without which scarce any evill enterprise hath been plotted, or performed. Though he thought ingratitude to be absolutely inferior unto those horrible vices, yet he thought again, that in this respect, so farre forth as it was their cause and seminary, it was superior unto them all.

The ground of this influence of unthankfulness upon other sinnes, is its nature. For a main part of it is an undervaluation of mercies, which are of all others the most kindly, and powerfull, both motives unto duty, and dissuasives from sin.

Is it any wonder that they should run into all excess of sinne, who trample under their feet the most precious mercies of God, who despise the riches of his goodnes, forbearance,



bearance, and long suffering, not knowing that the goodnes of God leadeth them to repentance, as for past sins, so to caution and resolution against future sins.

Secondly, unthankfulnes hath a morall and meritorious influence upon the increase of sinne by aggravating, and ripening other finnes.

First, it aggravates other sins, and makes them more sinful then otherwise they would be. What more frequent with the holy Ghost in the aggravation of any sinne, then to insist upon this consideration, that it is accompanied with unthankfulnes? *Deut. 32. 5, 6, 7, &c. 2 Sam. 12. 8, 9. Mich. 6. 3, 4, 5.* A greater measure of unthankfulnes makes the estate of an Apostate more dangerous and desperate then of a simple alien, or unbeliever. And what but it, will make it at the day of judgement more toller-  
 able for *Tyre* and *Sydon*: for the land of *Sodom*, then for *Corazin*, *Bethsaida*, *Capernaum*, Cities honoured with the presence, preaching, and miracles of Christ. Their lives were in all probability as bad, if not worse then these, and therefore why should their account, and punishment bee lighter, but because the mercies they enjoyed were much lesse, and so answerably their unthankfulnesse. Matth. 23.

Secondly, because it aggravates other finnes, hightens their guilt and demerit, therefore it ripens them, and makes them arrive more speedily unto a fulnesse, then otherwise they would. It makes them like Summer fruits, which are the first ripe fruits, *Amos 8. 1, 2.* The finnes of Israel and Judah were sooner ripe then those of the Amorites, and the reason was, because the blessings of Israel were more precious, *Psalms 147. 19, 20.* and therefore their unthankfulnes more heinous. Why doth judgement begin first at the House, the Church of God, *1 Pet. 4. 17.* but because their sins are more aggravated from, and ripened by unthankfulnes, then the finnes of others, as being under, and against greater mercies then are granted unto the



rest of mankinde.

Secondly, unthankfulness carrieth opposition unto the second sort, or kind of goodnes, Pleasure or delight. Spirituall joy, you have heard, is a cause of thanksgiving, and by the same reason the sorrow or sadnesse of the world, 2. *Cor.* 7. 10. is a cause of unthankfulness, nay, joy is an ingredient or part of thanksgiving. *Psalme* 33. 1. and therefore want of joy belongs formally unto unthankfulness. Ignorant persons are alwayes unthankfull: for ignorance, as I have shewed at large, is a cause of unthankfulness. Now ignorance is in Scripture compared unto darknes, which usually figureth a sad and uncomfortable state or condition. The unthankfull person walkes in darknesse, and hath no light, that is, no solid joy, peace, or comfort, *Isai.* 50. 10. Well he may have a sensuall, or carnall joy, begotten by the naturall effects of outward blessings; but that alas, is but a false and deceitfull joy, full of vanity and emptinesse; and because joyned with a guilty and trembling conscience, full also of vexation of spirit, \* well it may like a little counterfeit complexion, alter the look, and smoothe the face outwardly, but it can never thoroughly fill, or truly cheere up the soule inwardly.

\* Gataker.

Finally, unthankfulness beares opposition unto a profitable good, as being a very dangerous evill, and the danger of it wil appeare from the terrible threatnings against, and dreadfull punishments of unthankfulness which are recorded in Scripture, *Jer.* 13. 16. Give glory to the Lord your God, before he cause darknes, and before your feet stumble upon the mountains, and while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death. *Capernaum* by mercies exalted unto heaven, was by unthankfulness brought down to hell, *Mat.* 11. 23. Because the Gentiles glorified not God, neither were thankfull, God gave them up to vile affections, unnaturall lusts, and a reprobate minde, *Rom.* 1. 21, &c. Were they for their ingratitude given over to such horrible uncleannesse, O then to what hardnesse

ness of heart, and searednes or cauterizednes of conscience shal we be left unto for ours? Were the sonnes of Nature thus punished for being unthankful but for the light of nature, what severity then may we expect who pretending our selves to be the sonnes of grace, are unthankfull for the glorious light of the Gospel? Part of the Argument which *Paul* useth to prove, that in the last dayes perilous times, shall come, is because men shall be unthankful, *3 Tim. 3. 1, 2.* Unthankfulness makes the times perilous. Now the ground or reason of this rigour towards ingratitude is, because God wil some way or other be glorified by us: for his glory is the supream end of all that we are, and have, and therefore if we doe not glorifie him actively by our thanks and praises, we shall glorifie him passively by our sufferings, we shall contribute to his glory, if not with our songs here on earth, with howling, weeping and gnashing of teeth in hell.

But I shall make a more full and particular prooffe of the perill of unthankfulness, from the threatnings and punishments of all the severall parts thereof. Secondly, by instancing in such punishments as relate unto mercies, to wit, removall of, or a curse upon mercies already enjoyed: and thirdly, a with-holding of such as are desired and expected.

First from the threatnings against, and punishments of all the severall parts, or degrees of unthankfulness. First, the not observing of mercies, *Psalms 28. 5. Isai. 5. 12, 13.* Secondly, the ascribing them unto our selves, or receiving and countenancing others ascribing them unto us. *Herod* was smitten by the Angel of the Lord, and eaten of wormes, because he gave not God the glory of the eloquence for which the people magnified, and even deified him. *Acts 12. 23.* Thirdly, the forgetfulness of mercies, or of God their donor, *1 Sam. 12. 9. Psalm 106. 21, 22, 23. Jer. 2. 6, 7, 8, 9. Hos. 13. 6, 7, 8.* Forgetfulness of benefits is so horrid a sin, as that for it the Lamb of God be-

comes as a Lion, as a Leopard, as a Beare thaa is bereaved of her Whelps. God our mercifull Father becomes a wrathfull and revengefull Judge, our Creator and preserver falls to rending of the caule of our hearts, to devouring and tearing of us. Fourthly, the under-valuation of mercies, 1 *Sam.* 2. 30. They that despise me shall be lightly esteemed: and whosoever despiseth the gifts of God, despiseth the love and good will of God the giver. *Rom.* 2. 4. 5. He that despiseth the riches of Gods goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, treasureth up unto himselfe wrath against the day of wrath. *Psalme* 106. 24, 26, 27. Because Israel despised the pleasant land of Canaan, therefore God lifted up his hand against them to overthrow them in the wilderness, &c. Lastly, a non-requitall, or an ill requitall of benefits. First, a non-requitall, 2 *Chron.* 32. 25. *Hezekiah* rendred not again according to the benefit done unto him: for his heart was lifted up; therefore there was wrath upon him; and upon Judah and Jerusalem. If publicke persons doe not make retribution unto God for his mercies, it drawes downe from heaven not only personall, but also nationall plagues. The Fig-tree that beareth not fruit, doth but cumber the ground, and therefore is to be cut downe, *Luke* 13. 7. The slothfull and unprofitable servant that did hide his talent in the earth, that did not improve and imploy his gifts and mercies for the praise of God, was to bee cast out into utter darknes, where shall bee weeping and gnashing of teeth, *Matth.* 25. 30. Secondly, an ill requitall of blessings, *Prov.* 17. 13. Whoso rewardeth evill for good, evill shall not depart from his house. Whosoever rewardeth evill for good to man, much more to God. In the words we have a double extent of the punishment of rendring evill for good. One in regard of time how long it shall last: it shall not onely light or seaze upon him, and his Family, but it shall never depart from his house. Another extent of the punishment is, in regard of the object,

ject, how farre it shall reach; not to his own person onely, but to his whole House and Family. Evill shall not depart from his House. The earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, the heart that is plentifully watered from heaven with raine, as of Ordinances, so of mercies, and bringeth not forth hearbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, bringeth not forth fruits of well-doing, fruits worthy of repentance, but beareth thornes, and bryers, is fruitfull in nothing, but lusts and corruptions, such an heart is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing, whose end is to bee burned, *Hebr. 6. 7, 8. Ezra 9. 13, 14.*

Secondly, the danger of unthankfulness may be proved by instancing in such punishments thereof, as relate unto mercies, to wit, first, a Removal of, or secondly a curse upon mercies already enjoyed, and thirdly, a withholding of such as are desired, or expected.

First, God punisheth unthankfulness by removall of mercies already enjoyed. In *Exod. 14. 21.* we read of a strong East wind that dried up the red Sea in a night. Unto which I conceive *Bernard* did allude, when he said, *Ingratitudo est ventus urens, & siccat sibi fontem pietatis, rorem misericordiae, fluentia gratia:* Ingratitude is a winde that burnes and dryes up the fountaine of piety, dew of mercies, and streames of grace. The Rivers if they did not disburden themselves into the Sea, the chiefe mother of all waters, would soon grow dry; and so should we be quickly empty of all mercies and comforts, if wee doe not empty our soules in the praises of Gods goodness, whence as from an infinite Ocean, all our mercies, and comforts flow. The slothfull servant had his Talent taken from him, because out of an unthankfull neglect, he buried it, and did not use and improve it for the glory of God, and good of his Church. *Matth. 25. 24. &c.* From him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath, *verse 29.* that is, Gods gifts shall bee taken away from

Serm. 52.  
super Cant.



River, Down-  
ham upon the  
place.

from him, that doth not thankfully and diligently employ them. *Hos* 4.7. As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame. Where we have the unthankfulness of the Priests of *Israel*, and Gods punishment thereof.

First, their unthankfulness, as they were increased, to wit, in the outward blessings of this life, honours, riches, so they sinned against me: that is, by so much the more they sinned against me; the more I multiplied my blessings upon them, the more they multiplied their sins against me.

Secondly, Gods punishment of this their unthankfulness, *Therefore will I change their glory into shame*, that is, I will take away those blessing, wherein they glory, or, I will take away that glory wherein they increased, and thereby expose them to shame and reproach. But the fullest and plainest place that we have for this is, *Hos* 3.8,9. Where *Israel* is by God accused of unthankfulness, and for it threatned with deprivation of those mercies for which she was unthankfull.

Zanchy, Pa-  
rens, River,  
Downham, Bur-  
rows in loc.

First, she is charged with unthankfulness, as failing in three parts of thanksgiving, Observation, Confession, Retribution, first she did not observe Gods mercies at least as his gifts, she did not know that I gave her Corn and Wine, and Oyle, and multiplied her Silver and Gold, *v.8*. Secondly, she was so farre from confessing God to be the author of them, as that she ascribed them unto her Idols, as the bestowers of them. My lovers give me my Bread, and my Water, my Wool, and my Flax, my Oyle and my Drink, *v.5*. secondly, unto her self as the deserfer of them *v.12*. these are my rewards that my lovers, mine Idols have given mee for my worship and service of them.

Lastly, she was so short of requital, as that she abused Gods mercies against him, unto the extreame dishonour of him: she misemployed them about the worship of an abominable Idol, multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for *Baal*; that is, either to sacrifice unto him,



him, or to make him off, or to deck and adorn him with. In the ninth verse, God threatneth *Israel* to bereave her of those mercies, for which shee was thus unthankfull. Therefore will I return and take away my Corn in the time thereof, and my Wine in the season thereof; and will recover my Wool and my Flax given to cover her nakednesse. In which words, this severe handling of them for their unthankfulness is amplified and justified. First, amplified by, first a comparison of it, with Gods former dispensations unto them. Secondly, from the unexpectednesse thereof. First, by a comparison of it with Gods former dispensations unto them, which is insinuated in the word translated: *I will return*, to wit, into a way of judgement, I will take a new course with her. First, I dealt with her in a way of severity, and then upon her seeming and flattering repentance or humiliation, I betook my self to a way of mercy: but her unthankfulness will drive me into a way of judgement again: therefore I will return. Unthankfulness alters the manner of Gods dealing with his people: puts him out of his sweet and loving wayes of mercy into the severe, sharp, & sower wayes of judgement, & punishment. Secondly, from the unexpectednes of it. I will take away my Corn in the time thereof, my Wine in the season thereof; that is, my Corn in the time of harvest, my Wine in the time of Vintage, as if he should have said, I will take away their mercies (for Corn and Wine by a synecdoche stand for all other mercies) when in regard of naturall, and second causes they make full, and certain account of enjoying them most. Unthankfulness will strip us of mercyes, when we are confident of having them. It will take away our Corn at the harvest, our Wine at the vintage: it will sink a ship in the harbour, it will cast us into straits in the fulnesse of our sufficiency. *Job 20. 22.* It will raise War when we think our peace firme, and unshakable: it will snatch victory out of our hands when we deem an overthrow impossible. *Jer. 37. 10.* it will shipwreck

shipwrack a Church or State, when it even toucheth the shore of peace and safety : it will drive us back into the wilderness, when we are in sight of *Canaan*.

Of this severity of God towards *Israel* we have next a justification taken from the injustice of her unthankfulness, and that is signified

First, by the pronoun, *My*. My Corn, my Wine, my Wool, my, Flax. From this we may infer. That God had an absolute supream and sovereign property in their mercies, which by their unthankfulness they defrauded him of, and devided between themselves and their Idols. This also may be gathered from the two first Verbs of the text rendered in our translation, I will return, and take away. For the former of them by an usuall Hebraisme, as *Tremelius*, and after him *Rivet* conjecture, hath the nature, and force of the Adverb again, so that both Verbs may be expressed in one. I will resume, or receive, take again into mine hands my Corn, and Wine, &c. As if he should have said, I will claim or challenge as mine own those mercies which you have denied to have received of me, which you have abused against mee. When God takes away mercies from the unthankfull, it is but a reall claiming, a challenging or resuming of his own right. But most clearly may the injustice of unthankfulness be concluded from the word here rendred, Recover, which signifieth with strong hand to pluck away from one that which he unjustly possesseth. When God takes away mercies from the unthankfull, he doth but recover them as out of the hands of usurpers.

For first, unthankfulness is a kinde of spirituall theft, because that wherein it principally consisteth, attribution of blessings unto either our selves or others, is a most unjust invasion or intrusion upon, and usurpation of that which is solely Gods right. However then the unthankful may have a just title unto the creatures, and blessings they enjoy, and so be true and lawfull owners of them : they are yet usurpers

pers of, and intruders upon the praise, honour, and glory of them.

Secondly, unthankfulness makes a forfeiture of mercies, as being a denyall of that fealty and homage, and withholding of that rent which Gods expects from them. Justly then may God deal with the unthankfull, as Land-lords in the like case with their tenants, make an entry upon their mercies and quite dispose of them.

Thirdly, however we cannot say absolutely, that the unthankfull are usurpers of, and intruders upon the creatures, and mercies which they enjoy as having no right unto them: Yet we may say it comparatively, in comparison of that higher title, which the thankfull have in Chrſt Jesus: they have not such a sanctified renewed and comfortable estate in them as they. And this onely was meant in those expressions of the *Waldenses*, *Wickliffe* and *Iohn Husse*, which the Papists of old charged with heresie. And thus also the learned *Rivet* qualificieth and allayeth a seeming rigid expression of *Peter Mowlin* in his *Anatomy of Arminianisme*, which *Corvinus* accuseth as treasonable and destructive of propriety; and thus also might the Papists interpret, if they had but common and ordinary candor; What *Gerson*, *Conradus* and some of the *Sorbonists* have written concerning that which they call *Dominium gratificum*. But now if we translate this Verb as *Hierome* and others doe, *I will free and set at liberty my Wooll and my Flax, &c.* so it hath reference to prisoners and bond-slaves; and from it we may gather, that there is in unthankfulness a kinde of injustice, and cruelty towards the good creatures and mercies of God: by it they are imprisoned, and manacled in a kinde of bondage, to be delivered from which they doe, as it were groan and cry.

By what hath been said in opening of this place of scripture, you have at large seen how justly God may take away mercies from the unthankfull. Why, it is but a receiving, a resuming, a challenging and claiming of his own, a reco-

very of his right, a making of an entry upon that which is by ingratitude forfeited, a deliverance of the imprisoned, and abused mercies of God into a kinde of freedom. That is applyable unto ingratitude, which is by some reported of *Pyrhus* and *Hanibal*, that they knew how to conquer, but had no skill to keep, use, and improve their conquests. Unthankfulness will dash the most hopefull beginnings of deliverance and reformation: it will throw away in an instant that which a people have a long time most valiantly fought for with men, and most zealously wrestled for in prayer unto God. The deliverance which we this day celebrate, cost you many bitter teares, many fervent prayers, much pretious blood, for it you have hazarded all that under the Sunne was deare unto you. But now your unthankfulness will be a grave unto all those mercies and comforts, which you reape by vertue of this deliverance: it will make your last state worse then your first; it will make your preservation to be but a reservation of you to a more calamitous condition, then that which you feared in the time of your greatest danger and extremity; it will reduce you to such an estate as the *Saguntine* Embassadors said they were in after the recovery of their Town, *Ad hoc retracti ex distantibus locis in sedem antiquam videbamus, ut iterum periremus, & alterum excidium patrie videremus.* Wee seemed to bee brought home from the places of our exile, for no other purpose, but to be ruined a second time, and to behold another funerall and desolation of our Town and Country.

T. Livius.

Carpsen  
Geogr. lib. 2.  
p. 162.

Secondly, unthankfulness brings a curse, poyson, and pollution upon all our mercies, it rots and putrifieth them, makes them like the waters of a Pond, or standing Pool, which having no intercourse with the Sea, nor supply from springs, as it is by the heat of the Sunne exhaulting it out by Vapours either extraordinarily diminished or altogether dried up; so howsoever it is corrupted and grows stinking and unsavory. God will not loose the honour



nour of his benefits that he bestoweth upon us, but will some way or other be glorified by them.

If we doe not glorifie his mercy, whilest he bestoweth them as blessings, he will glorifie his justice by altering their nature, and turning them into curses, *Mal. 2. 2.* If yee will not lay it to heart, to give glory to my name, saith the Lord of Hostes, I will even send a curse upon you, and will curse your blessings; yea, I have cursed them already because you doe not lay it to heart. Mercies received with thanksgiving are sanctified, *1 Tim. 4. 45.* therefore by the rule of contraries, mercies received with unthankfull hearts are unsanctified, and accursed unto us; and what that is, you may gather from that I have delivered concerning the sanctification of mercies.

First, Then mercies are a curse unto us, when they are disabled from yeelding forth their naturall effects; when the Land doth not yeeld her increase, neither the Trees of the Land their fruit, *Levit. 26. 20, 26.* when the Floore, and the Wine-presse cannot feed us. *Hos. 9. 2. Hos. 4. 10.* When as *Iob* speaks, we be in straits, in the fulnesse of our sufficiency, *Iob 20. 22.* When we Sow much and bring in little, when we eate and have not enough, when we drink but are not filled with drink, cloath us but are not warme, earn wages to put it into a bagg with holes. *Hagg. 1. vers. 6.*

Secondly, Mercies that are unsanctified and accursed unto us proceed but from a common and ordinary ground, the generall providence of God which maketh the Sunne to rise on the evill and the good, and sendeth raine on the just and unjust, *Matt. 5. 45.* They come but from the patience and forbearance of God, like the Dyer, Lodgings, and other accommodations which are indulged unto a condemned prisoner untill execution, nay sometimes they are given in wrath, as Quayles and a King were to Israel, *Numb. 11. v. 33. Hos. 13. v. 11.* to fatten against the day of slaughter, and render the more inexcusable.

K 2

Thirdly,



Thirdly, mercies are unsanctified, and accursed unto us, when they reach but naturall effects, when they advance us not as much as one step or degree towards heaven, towards union and communion with the God of heaven, when they make no spirituall discoveries of him, nor provoke unto any obedience unto him, when they promote not our sanctification, and spirituall consolation: but rather work effects quite contrary, increase of sin, and vexation of Spirit. *Tully* tells us out of *Pliny*, that in a certain Countrey drought stirreth up dirt, and rain dust. Nor to dispute the truth of the relation, give me leave to apply it to my purpose. Unthankfulnesse hath made the mercies of God to bring forth in us effects as unsutable to their nature, as moisture to drought, and dust to rain. It hath made the Gospel the savour of death unto death: it makes mercies to have such an influence upon us, as the shining of the Sunne on clay, and on a dunghill, it begets hardnes of heart, and raiseth up the noysome steem, and exhalations of stinking lusts, it makes our table to become a snare before us, and that which should have been for our wellfare, to become a trap, *Psalme 69. 22.* It corrupts our riches, and makes them as thorns to pierce us thorough, with many sorrowes, it poysoneth our honours and dignities, and makes them swell and break us with pride and ambition, it sowreth and imbittereth all our pleasures, and makes them as uncomfortable and as undelightsome, as the musicke of a Trumpet at an Assize unto a condemned prisoner.

Thirdly, unthankfulnes with-holds mercies desired, and expected. *Gratiarum cessat decursus, ubi recursus non fuerit.* The course of Gods favours cease, where there is not a return of them by our gratitude. <sup>a</sup> Nothing (saith *Seneca*) so much dissolveth and breaketh off mens friendship, as this vice of ingratitude: and why may we not apply to it that which is affirmed, *Isai. 59. 2.* Of all iniquities and sinnes whatsoever; that they separate between

<sup>a</sup> Nihil æque concordiam humani generis dissociat, ac destrahit, quam hoc vitium.

God

God and us, and hide his face from us, that hee will not heare. Unthankfulnes interrupts, though not Gods love of intention, which is unchangeable, yet his love of execution, as also his love of complacency, or delight, it is a barre, or obstacle unto the effects and flowings of Gods bounty; it doth as it were close Gods eyes, shut his hands against our wants, and stop his eares against our cries and prayers. And indeed with what face can an unthankfull wretch begge new favours of God, who hath neglected, forgotten, slighted, and most miserably perverted and abused old ones? Unto<sup>b</sup> Bernard it seemes a peece of clemency to deny the requests of the ungratefull, lest they should be so much the more heavily and rigorously censured, and judged for unthankfulnes by how much the more they shall be proved to be unthankfull for the accumulation of benefits. To withdraw mercy in this respect will be a kind of mercy, it will be a favour to withhold favours, which will aggravate unthankfulnesse, and increase condemnation. We<sup>c</sup> will not lend or trust our mony unto Bankrupts, nor leave a pledge in their hands who have denied others of what they have deposited with them. And may not God then in equity detaine desired mercies from the unthankfull who have defrauded and robd him of the honour of all former mercies? <sup>d</sup> The husband-man will not sow his corn in the sands, nor in barren or unfruitfull ground: and will God, thinke you, <sup>e</sup> cast, or throw away his mercies upon unthankfull hearts, from

*b Et forte hoc etiam clementia esse videtur ingratis negare quod postulant: ne contingat nobis ut tanto gravius de ingratitude judicemur quanto magis accumulatis beneficiis ingrati probabimur extitisse. Ergo misericordia res est, in hac parte subtrahere misericordiam. Bernard.*

ingratiitudinis 495. D.

*c Huic ingrato qui beneficiorum fraudator est, & in hanc partem procubuit animo, non magis dabit beneficium, quam decoctori pecuniam creditus depositum committit ei qui iam pluribus abnegavit. Sen. de Benef. lib. 4. c. 26.*

*d Semina in solum effusum & sterile non spargimus. Id. ibid. l. 1. c. 1. Agricola quidem semina arenis non committunt. Lib. 4. c. 9.*

*e Nunquam non perit quod datur ingrato. 48. Omnino enim sola nos à profectu conversationis impedit ingratitude nostra dum quodammodo amissum reputans dator quod ingratus accepit, caret sibi de cetero ne tanto plura amitteret quanto plura conferret ingrato. Ibid. 496.*

whom.

whom he never had so much as the least crop on harvest of thanks? Ingenuous men will be ashamed to take up new wares and commodities of Tradesmen, before they have cleared their bookes, and paid all former scores: and gracious hearts blush to petition God for new favours, without premising thankfulness for the old, and promising thankfulness for the new.

First, without premising thankfulness for the old. *Jacob's* petition for deliverance from his brother *Esaú*, *Gen.* 32. 12. is usher'd in with a commemoration of God's former bounty, verses 9, 10. *David* in *Psal.* 40. first makes mention of his thankfulness, verse 10. and then falls to praying from the eleventh verse to the end of the *Psalme*. You have the Church most affectionately and ravishingly praising God for the initials of her deliverance from *Babylon*, *Psal.* 126. 1, 2, 3. before she prayeth for the perfection and consummation thereof, verse 4. And this also was *Paul's* method in his prayers for those unto whom he wrote, *Col.* 1. 3. *1 Thess.* 3. 9, 10.

Secondly, without promising thankfulness for the new, not to lay an obligation of merit upon God by the duty, but onely to impose upon themselves a tye or obligation for performance of the duty. In every petition, saith Doctor *Ames*, giving of thanks for the benefit that is petitioned for, is promised either expressly or implicitly, and the Scripture abounds in instances of joyning in prayers expresse promises of thankfulness. *Psal.* 51. 14. *Psal.* 61. 7, 8. *Psal.* 79. 11, 12, 13. *Psal.* 86. 11, 12. *Hos.* 14. 2. And thus you see, that as *Paul* adviseth, *Phil.* 4. 6. the requests of the Saints have been made known unto God by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving: their petitions have been seasoned with thankfulness; with thankfulness in performance for blessings received, with thankfulness in purpose, and promise for such as are expected and desired \* Prayer without praise is as a Censer without burning coales, from which there can no sweet favour ascend.

† In omni petitione vel expresse vel implicite promittitur gratiarum actio, de illo beneficio quod petitur. Medul. Theol. lib. 2. c. 9. Thes. 92.

\* Luther. Arrowsmith.

attend. *Oratio sine laude est thuribulum sine prunis.*

\* Prayer and thanks are like the double motion of the lungs, the aire that is sucked in by prayer, is breathed forth again by thanks. \* Tho. Goodwin in his Return of pray-ers.

The second sort of Uses shall be of exhortation. And upon the excellency of praise and thanksgiving, we may ground a double exhortation : one, unto a performance of it ; the other unto an observation of a due manner in performance thereof.

1. We may from consideration of the excellency of praise and thanksgiving, be exhorted unto a performance of the duty. Whatsoever things are true (saith the Apostle) whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any vertue, if there be any praise, thinke on these things. *Phi. 4. 8* Now all the goodly Epithites, or attributions, do in a most eminent manner agree unto thanksgiving. It is true, and just, made up of truth and justice as its parts, say both \* Philosophers and Divines. It is honest, pure, and lovely, and of good report, and therefore me thinks we should have our hearts wonderfully inflamed with the love, and stirred up unto the practice of it. \* Keckerman, & Ursinus

I shall use no new motives to presse this exhortation, but only refer you to what I have delivered in confirmation of the point : by which it is evident, that tis not only a gracious, but also a gracefull, comely, and faire endowment ; that beautifieth, and becommeth a Christian. *Psal. 33. 1.* What can more forcibly provoke and perswade unto this duty, then Gods gracious account of it, his vouchsafing to esteeme himselfe honoured, blessed, magnified, and glorified by the weeke prayles of our polluted hearts, and lips. Who will not be excited to a duty that is appropriated unto so glorious a subject, as the church and people of God, that is the priviledge of the Saints, though the duty of all mankind, that respect - eth



eth so gracious, and beneficiall an object as the incomprehensible mercies of God, so glorious, and admirable an object as the infinite perfections of God. The wonderfull difficulty of it should no wayes defer, or discourage from it, because it ariseth from excesse of its perfection from the vast extent, and comprehensivenesse thereof. for if we consider it formally, it takes in, as you have heard, many duties, and if we look upon it by way of Concomitancy, so it takes in all duties whatsoever belonging to the first, and second table. So that wee may say of it as the Preacher of the feare of God did. *Eccles. 12, 13.* This is the whole duty of man. *Tully* said of gratitude unto man, that it is *Maxima, & mater omnium reliquarum virtutum.* And if we except faith, wee may affirme as much of gratitude unto God. If wee are taken with an high descent, and originall of things, why, thankfulness is the product of the noblest, and most divine of graces. But can there bee a stronger prooffe of its excellency, and more prevailing motive unto the love, and practise of it, then Gods gracious acceptation of it; wonderfull complacency in it, and extreame jealousy for it! shall not we have a very high esteeme of that, then which there is nothing dearer unto our God? It is (you have heard) as musick to his eare, as sweet wine to his tast, as a rich, and pretious perfume to his nostrils. Can wee then withhold it from him, and yet pretend, that wee beare any love, and respect unto him, and professe that wee are his servants, and subjects? It is the great end of the greatest and most glorious of his workes and mercies; and shall we by our unthankfulness attempt to frustrate or disappoint God of this his end. shall wee stop, and withhold from God, that which hath been the principal scope of the sweet influences of his goodness upon us. Are you affected with virtue, pleasure, or profit? why, all these kindes of goodness as you have heard at large, are most eminently applyable unto the  
 grace



grace of thankfulnesse, and duty of thanksgiving. If you  
 enter into a comparison of it with other graces, and du-  
 ties, you shall find it to bee in divers respects unmatched  
 for of all graces, and duties it comes fullest, closest, and  
 neereſt up unto the highest end, Gods glory : and besides  
 it is more durable, then other graces, whose exercise, and  
 proper acts are of use only in this life, but after wee are  
 translated from death unto life thanksgiving will bee our  
 eternall exercise in heaven. And therefore let us redeeme  
 as much time as we can, for the performance of it, here  
 upon earth. You have seene how the prayer of petition  
 compared therewith is over ballanced thereby in regard  
 of necessity, comfort and dignity. And hence *David*  
 the sweet singer of Israel, upon whom the spirit of pray-  
 er, and supplication was powred in a most abundant  
 measure, did yet it seemes more abound in the prayer of  
 thanksgiving, then in that of petition. For, we reade of  
 his praying but thrice a day. *Psal.* 55. 17. Evening, and  
 mourning, and at noone will I pray and cry aloud: but he  
 makes mention of praising God seaven times a day. *Psal.*  
 119. 164. As also in the very depth of the night. At  
 mid-night will I rise to give thanks unto thee. *Psal.* 119.  
 62. To conclude this use, this duty will be a great part of  
 our happinesse in heaven, and therefore it is but fit, that  
 it should be a cheife part of our businesse here upon earth,  
 it is now the musick of Heaven of the blessed Angels, and  
 glorified spirits, with whome if wee bee not in consort  
 now, we may justly feare, everlasting seperation from  
 them hereafter. The state of grace is an incoation of  
 the state of glory, and therefore wee can have no ground  
 to assure our selves that wee shall praise God everlasting-  
 ly in heaven, unlesse heer on earth our hearts bee put in  
 tune, and we study, and learne the song of *Moses*, and  
 the Lamb.

Secondly from the excellency of praise, and thankgiv-  
 ing wee may bee exhorted to observe a due manner in the  
 performing

performance thereof to performe it Preparedly, Reverently, Zealously, and Entirely.

First, Preparedly. So excellent divine, and glorious a duty calls for the utmost preparation, that is possible of our understandings, wils, and affections; and accordingly the Psalmist tels us, *Psalm. 65. 1.* Praise wayteth for thee O God in Sion, that is, all true members of the Church, of which Sion was a type, have their hearts in tune in a readinesse, and due frame for this worke. In *Psalm. 57. 7, 8.* and *Psalm. 108. 1, 2.* We have *David* making a profession of his both habituall, and actuall preparation for it. First, he professeth how he was habitually fitted and prepared for it, vers. 7. My heart is fixed, or prepared, O God, my heart is fixed, or prepared: I will sing and give praise. The ingemination of this profession of his preparation for praise, denoteth either the absolute and great necessity of it, or else his wonderfull exactnesse in it. In verse. 8. he betakes himselfe unto an actuall preparation for it, he awaketh and rouzeth up all that within, or without him, may contribute unto the work. Awake up my glory, awake Psaltery and Harp, I my selfe will awake early. If the alacrity of the sweet Singer of Israel must be thus awakened to give praise unto God; O then what rowzing and stirring up doth not backwardnesse and dulnesse stand in need of? In that exhortation of *Paul, Coloss. 4. 2.* to watch in prayer with thanksgiving; the watchfulness there required, is referred to thanksgiving as well as prayer. To fit us for both prayer and thanksgiving, we must have both our heads and our hearts wakefull, they are both duties of such neere and intimate communion with God, as that they are not to bee come unto with drowsie and sleepey soules. Thanksgiving is a kinde of Heavenly and Angelicall worship, and therefore should not be approached with earthly hearts. In it (to aply that speech of *Moses, Exod. 3. 5.*) wee turn aside to see a great sight, Gods greatnesse and goodnesse: and therefore put

put off thy shooes from thy feet, all low, earthly and sensuall affections: So<sup>a</sup> some allegorize the phrase, because the shooes being next the earth, are usually more foule and dirty.

<sup>a</sup> The new Annotations.

Secondly, so excellent and divine a duty is to be performed reverently, *God is fearfull in prayes, Exod. 15. 11.* therefore his praises are to be celebrated with an awfull feare, and religious reverence, and accordingly *Junius* and *Tremellius* render the words, *Reverendus laudibus*, to be revered or feared in prayes. And that God is to be revered or feared in his praises, is plain, first, because joy, a main ingredient of our praises, is to be with trembling, [*Psal. 2. 11.* Secondly, because the object of our praises, mercy and goodnesse, should affect us with a filiall feare. *Psal. 130. 4. Jer. 33. 9.*

Thirdly, so heavenly and glorious a duty is to be performed zealously and devoutly, and not perfunctorily or slightly to be slubber'd over. *Psal. 66. 2.* Sing forth the honour of his name, make his praise glorious, saith the Psalmist. In the originall it is, *Put glory to his praise*: it is (saith *Mollerus*) as if he should have said, Be not dull, sluggish, or drowsie in the celebration of Gods benefits, do not content your selves with ordinary praises, let them be in as glorious and honorable a manner as it is possible, according unto the utmost of your powers, with all your hearts, souls, strength and might. Hither also may you referre those places wherein 'tis said, that God is greatly to be praised, *Psa. 48. 1. Psa. 109. 30. Psa. 145. 3.* There is an extensive and an intensive greatnesse, and both must be found in our praises of God. First, an intensive greatnes in regard of their number, we must be frequent & plentifull in the duty, we must (to use the expression of *David*) *Psa. 145. 7.* abundantly utter the memory of Gods great goodnes. Secondly, there must be an intensive greatnes in our praises, in regard of the degree, fervour and heat of them. They must be high, and vehement, fervent, flaming

zealous, and affectionate, full of life and vigour', our Spirits must be raised, our hearts and tongues enlarged in the performance of this duty. Gods glorious name, as it is *Nehem. 9. 5*, is exalted above all blessing and praise, above our devoutest and most zealous praises; and therefore surely, faint, heartlesse, and livelesse praises, are so far from reaching him, as that they may seem to bee meant of another of a lower object. God then is not praised at all, if he be not greatly praised. Weak and dull praises are dispraises: for a person or thing is not honoured or praised, unless there be some proportion between the honour and praise, and the worthines of the person or thing honoured and praised. Honour (saith *Aquinas*, and we may say the same of praise) is nothing else but a testimony of the excellency of a person or thing. Now when a testimony is so far from being home, and full, as that it doth not in any sort reach that for which it is brought, there must be either a falshood or a nullity in it. It were strange then, if cold, unzealous, and unservent praises should beare witness unto the infinite greatnes of God. Hence it is that you shall find in *Psalm 108*. that after *David* had professed a purpose of praising God, v. 1, 2, 3. he tells you next the proportion that is between the attributes which he praiseeth in God, and his praise of him. The greatnes of the attributes, *Mercy and Truth*, we have v. 4. *Thy Mercy is great above the heavens, and thy Truth reacheth unto the clouds*: And there is an answerable greatnes in his praises of God for them, vers. 5. *Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens, and thy glory above all the earth*. He wisheth and endeavoureth to exalt him as high in his praises as he is in himselfe, to exalt him above the earth, above the heaven, and the clouds. In peace-offerings for thanksgiving, leavened bread was to be offered, *Levit. 7. 13*. now the property of leaven is to raise the meale, so then the requiring of it might be to signifie, that in thanksgiving our hearts are to be raised and elevated above the pitch of nature by spir-  
rituall,



rituall, holy and heavenly affections; and because it is not possible that our hearts should be lifted up in so high a manner, as the nature and number of Gods mercies merit, we must supply what is wanting with an holy & devout stupor and admiration. That place in *Psalm 65. 1.* rendred by our Translators, *Praise waiteth for thee, ô God, in Syon,* is in the originall, *Praise is silent, or, silence unto thee,* to wit, out of wonder at the incomprehensibleness of thy goodnes, 'tis this that strikes them dumb with admiration, as being beyond all not only expressions, but also apprehensions.

Lastly, if thanksgiving bee so excellent a duty, let it be performed by us entirely, wholly, and fully, and not blemish'd with the omissions of any of its parts; which are five; Observation, Confession, Remembrance, Valuation, Retribution; let all these have a place in this your day of thanksgiving, and not so much as one of them left out. For would it not be pittie, that so noble, and worthy a worke, should bee maimed, and defective, should want any thing that makes unto its integrity, and fulnesse?

First, then, Observe narrowly and inquisitively the mercy, for the publike acknowledgement whereof wee hold this Assembly, take a steady and curious view of all particular circumstances, and passages in the Seige, that had any thing either of mercy, or marvaile in them; that so you may digest them into matter of praise, and thanksgiving. And let not your observation dwell, and stay upon an arme of flesh. The prudence, and resolution of your worthy Governour, the golden mettle of your Souldiers, and Townsmen, the care and speed, that was used by the valiant instruments of your reliefe: but let it goe higher, so high as heaven. Observe the mercy, and the hand, the wisdom, power, and providence of God therein. Besides, as he who drew the picture of *Antigonus*, painted onely one side of his face, and not the other, which was blemished with the want of an eye: so doe you as it were over-look all miseries and losses, that you sustained by the  
siege,



siege, the burning of a great part of your town and goods; the slaughter of many of your dearest friends and neighbours; and chiefly fix your thoughts upon the many and great mercies that you owe to your deliverance; The preservation of your own lives, of the most considerable part of the town, of most of your goods, and many of your friends: For all these will serve to heighten and increase the flame of your thanksgiving; and therefore the consideration of them should be more permanent, and make a deeper impression upon your hearts, then the thoughts of any thing that might dampe your joy and lame your praises.

2 Next doe not stifle and imprison these thoughts in your hearts, but vent them unto others by a full publication, and confession of what God hath herein done for so undeserving a people, thereby the better to quicken your selves, and stir up others to a zealous performance of the duty.

3 And thirdly, Lest your joy and thanks for so a great preservation should in time coole and languish, doe you frequently and affectionately reflect upon it, that so it may never be buried in a grave of Oblivion. Master *Burrows* relates of the City of *Berne*, that they wrote the day of their deliverance from Antichrist, upon pillars with letters of gold. But I shall exhort you to a way of preserving the memoriall of your deliverance that shall be lesse chargeable, but more acceptable unto God; Let it be written in your memories with a pen of iron, and with the point of a Diamond, let it be graven upon the table of your hearts.

Fourthly, Detract nothing from the value and importance of your deliverance, but look upon it as a prevention of your utter ruine and desolation: as a resurrection from the bottome of danger and doubt, if not despaire. For, who of you but gave all for lost? If you will but look back upon your own feares, perplexities and misgivings of minde, they will informe: That if the Lord had not been on your side, when men rose up against you, when  
their

their wrath was kindled against you, a red Sea of blood and fire had overwhelmed you, had gone over your souls. If you consider the progresse that the enemy had made in winning of your Town; how he had entred your Line, fired severall Streets, &c. you cannot, me thinks, but have such an esteem of your preservation, as Christ had of the Restauration of Jerusalem, *Zach. 3. 2.* Is not this a brand pluck'd out of the fire? *Florus* speaking of the horrible devastation which the people of *Rome* made of the Country of the *Samnites*, thus expresseth it, *Ita ruinas ipsas urbium diruit, ut hodie Samnium in ipso Samnio requiratur.* And if you call to minde the bloody and barbarous threats, that your adversaries night and day thundred in your ears, they will give you a full and undoubted assurance, that if they had prevailed, the expression would have bin too too applicable unto this place; they would have ruined the very ruines thereof, as that in but the succeeding age, a man might have looked for *Taunton* in *Taunton*, and not have found it.

Fifthly and lastly, Bee you studiously inquisitive, as *David*, *Psal. 116. 12.* *What shall we render unto the Lord for so great and seasonable a benefit?* Why, let all your aims and purposes reach as high as Heaven; Let Gods glory over-balance all other ends; Let all selfish respects stoop thereunto. Doe not think much to part with your lives, much lesse with you lusts: the diseases and corruptions of your Soules and Lives, for a God that hath been so graciously mercifull to you and yours: Let the meditation of this deliverance inflame your zeale for Gods cause, enlarge your bowels and affection to his Church and People, improve and increase your care of obedience, and endeavours of mortification, stir you up to devote and dedicate all that you have and are to his service and glory,

FINIS.